

SPORTS REVIEW

**APARTMENT WRESTLING'S
GREATEST
BATTLES**

FALL 1978

48768  \$1.00

Wrestling

1978 ANNUAL

*Top Stars
Reveal:*
**HOW TO
BREAK INTO
PRO
WRESTLING
AND MAKE
A FORTUNE**

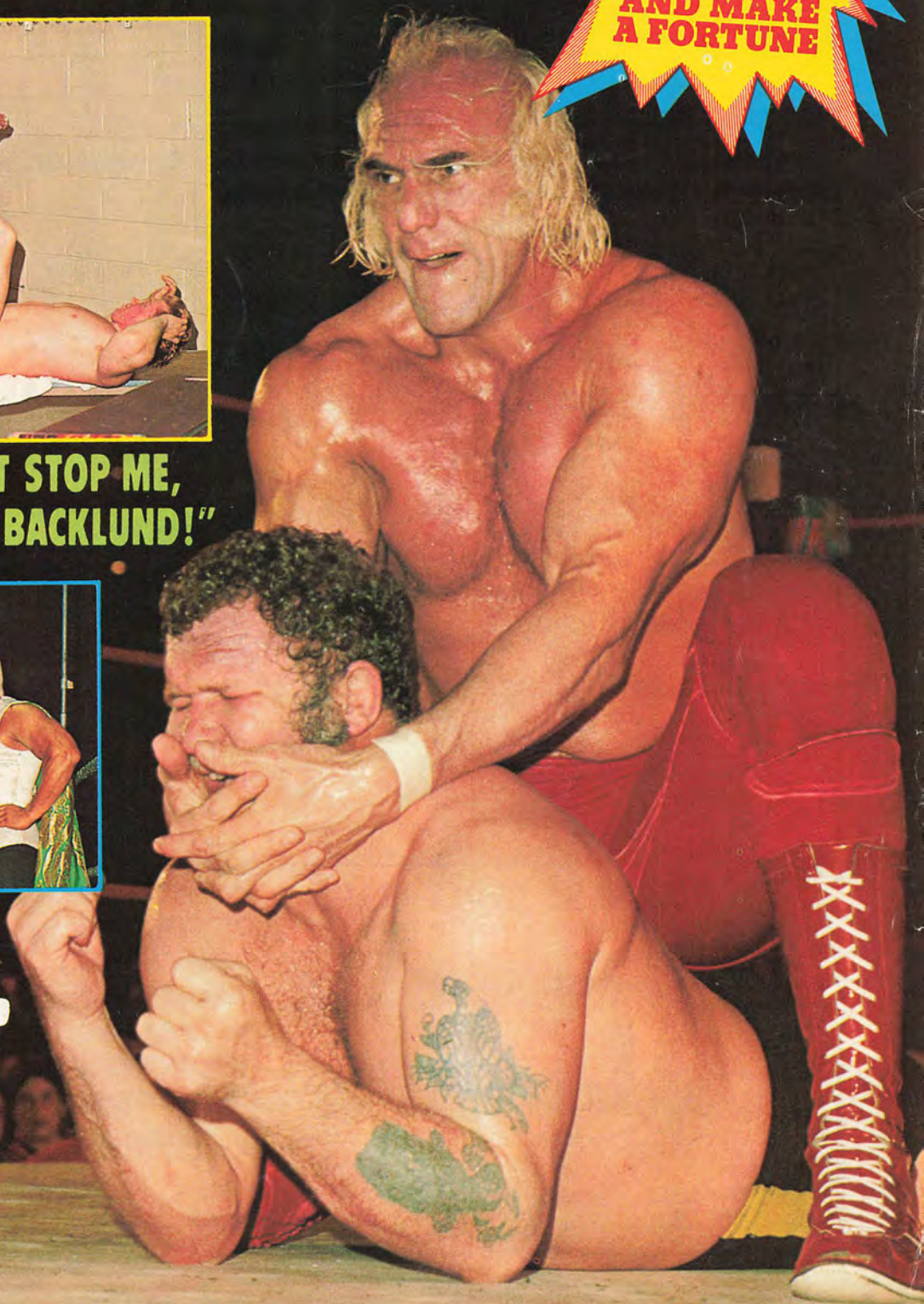


**"IF THE COPS DIDN'T STOP ME,
I WOULD HAVE KILLED BACKLUND!"**



Andre, Mascaras, and Maivia:

**WHICH ONE
IS THE SPY?**



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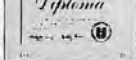
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**This is
Ike Berger
TODAY!**

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In his own words, "the effect was simply astonishing. I was able to get and keep in top shape in only a fraction of the time I needed before. Later, I learned the scientific reason for this surprising outcome is called SYNERGISM—meaning that when you combine the two major concepts, the result is greater than both of them separately.

"I began calling my new method SYNOMETRICS (the self-force that safely matches your own strength level) and by utilizing this new concept as well as the action unit I named the SYNO-TRIMMER, I found that *anyone* (at any age) could accomplish extraordinary effects within their own body in just 10 days of regular use. . . results they could see in their mirror, read on their weight scale—and just as importantly, feel in the awakened power that miraculously pulsed through every fiber of their being."

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Look at the above photos of Ike Berger. He's 39 today, but started training when he was only 10, and won his first Olympic Medal at 17. *This can be you* in just a short time by using the SYNO-TRIMMER for just a few minutes every morning, evening, or any time during the day when its most convenient—without warmups, muscle strain, or soreness, and without the exhaustion and lethargy that normally follow conventional exercise programs—because SYNOMETRICS matches your own natural strength level with no waste of its normal energy, and the pace that the SYNO-TRIMMER is used at will be dictated by your own inherent self-force.

WAKE UP THE MUSCLES AND POWER THAT HAVE LAIN DORMANT IN YOUR OWN BODY!

You owe it to yourself to act now and find out what's been missing in your life. And, if you send in the coupon immediately, Ike Berger will send you ABSOLUTELY FREE, his amazing booklet on SYNOMETRICS & DIET PROGRAM. Find out why SYNOMETRICS is the only healthy way of getting into and staying in top physical shape. And remember, *respect doesn't come easily* to anyone who is always called "skinny" or "fatso."

Send Today for the Portable (under 2 lbs.) SYNO-TRIMMER for only \$9.95, and we will include ABSOLUTELY FREE, Ike Berger's booklet on SYNOMETRICS & DIET PROGRAM.

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Wrestling

ANNUAL

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COVER PHOTOS BY BILL APTER

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SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING ANNUAL is published four times per year by G.C. London Publishing Corporation, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571. Reproduction of any of the material contained in this magazine without the written permission of the Publisher is strictly prohibited. All rights reserved.

"War injuries left me severely handicapped, but I'm making a very good living in Locksmithing, thanks to your course. Word of mouth advertising has been enough to make my business a financial success from the start. Besides, I'm my own boss doing something I thoroughly enjoy,"

says Glen Johnson,
Larned, Kansas.



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Prepare yourself to take advantage of this tremendous money-making opportunity for steady, year-round EXTRA INCOME in your spare time or financial independence in a fulltime, high-profit business of your own. Perfect for retirement! You don't have to be an expert

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Henry Rivas, Los Angeles, Calif.

"I CLEARED \$110 LAST SATURDAY! I am doing a wonderful business thanks to your course in Locksmithing. It's a great business."

R. W. Davis, St. Louis, Missouri.

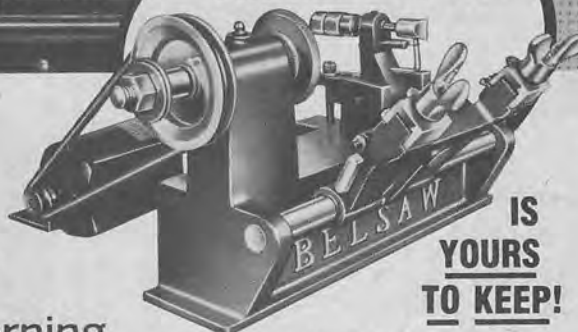
"I HAVE ALL THE LOCKSMITH WORK I CAN HANDLE. Business is so good I'm expanding to fulltime."

Ed Boyle, Pittsburg, Penna.



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OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION

Champion: BOB BACKLUND

- 1—SPIROS ARION
- 2—GEORGE STEELE
- 3—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
- 4—DUSTY RHODES
- 5—TATSUMI FUJINAMI (Jr. Heavyweight Champ)
- 6—MIL MASCARAS
- 7—KEN PATERA
- 8—DINO BRAVO
- 9—PETER MAIVIA
- 10—KOBAYASHI

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Champion: NICK BOCKWINKLE

- 1—CRUSHER
- 2—RAY STEVENS
- 3—BILLY ROBINSON
- 4—PAT PATTERSON
- 5—BOB ORTON JR.
- 6—JIM BRUNZELL
- 7—GREG GAGNE
- 8—BLACKJACK LANZA
- 9—ANGELO MOSCA
- 10—RUFUS R. JONES

MOST POPULAR

- 1—DUSTY RHODES
- 2—ANDRE THE GIANT
- 3—BOB BACKLUND
- 4—MIL MASCARAS
- 5—JACK BRISCO
- 6—CRUSHER
- 7—DINO BRAVO
- 8—PAUL JONES
- 9—MR. WRESTLING II
- 10—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM



GEORGE STEELE



CRUSHER



JACK BRISCO



SUPERSTAR GRAHAM

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Champion: HARLEY RACE

- 1—DUSTY RHODES
- 2—JACK BRISCO
- 3—RIC FLAIR
- 4—STAN HANSEN
- 5—BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
- 6—PAUL JONES
- 7—RICK STEAMBOAT
- 8—TERRY FUNK
- 9—DICK SLATER
- 10—KEN PATERA

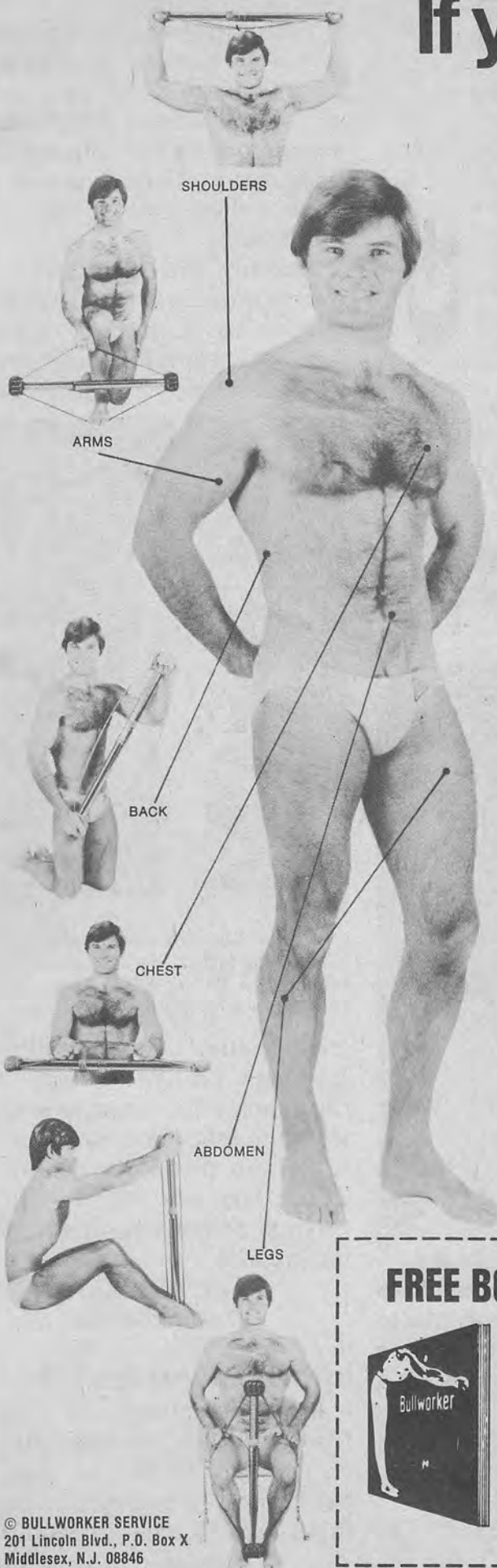
TAG TEAMS

- 1—PAUL JONES & RICK STEAMBOAT
- 2—DINO BRAVO & DOMINIC DeNUCCI
- 3—GREG GAGNE & JIM BRUNZELL
- 4—MIKE GRAHAM & STEVE KEIRN
- 5—JACK & JERRY BRISCO
- 6—THE LUMBERJACKS
- 7—LUKE & SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
- 8—RAY STEVENS & PAT PATTERSON
- 9—THE VALIANT BROTHERS
- 10—RIC FLAIR & GREG VALENTINE

MOST HATED

- 1—KEN PATERA
- 2—DICK SLATER
- 3—RIC FLAIR
- 4—GREG VALENTINE
- 5—THE SHEIK
- 6—KILLER KOX
- 7—CRAZY LUKE GRAHAM
- 8—GEORGE STEELE
- 9—NICK BOCKWINKLE
- 10—PAT PATTERSON

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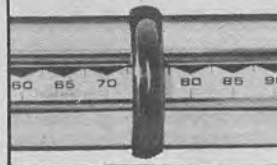
It's fast: each exercise takes only 7 seconds, once a day.

It's easy: any man between 15 and 65 in good general health can run through the whole program without getting tired.

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See your strength
GROWING
day by day on the
built-in patented
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I want to thank you for the pinup picture of Superstar Billy Graham which you had in your SUMMER ANNUAL. My picture of The Sheik had been really tattered and now I have a new photo for my dartboard.

These pinups are a marvelous part of your magazine. Especially the fans of scientific wrestlers who need some outlet for



Left: Killer Karl Kox demonstrates his rulebreaking tactics. He has never been known to be Mr. Nice Guy. Above: Ric Flair displays his growing ego.



HE TURNS MY STOMACH

Killer Karl Kox makes me sick. I can't believe anyone would have such "An Unnatural Hatred" (Summer 1978) just because his opponent is a Puerto Rican. You like to think bigotry of this type is gone from sports, but then you read about a loathsome man like Kox and

you wonder about things.

Maybe I'm no better than Kox, but I would really like to see his face blasted into a million little pieces. I hope a bunch of sincere wrestlers will band together and destroy that hateful man once and for all.

DEAN REYNOLDS
Pittsburgh, Pa.

their hatred of the rule-breakers. I'd like to suggest dartboards for anyone who wants to let off a little steam. If you can, please run a pinup of Ric Flair and Ken Patera. Friends of mine have empty dartboards.

KEVIN LEARY
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

HE'D TEAR HIM APART!

In your discussion of "The Men Who Can Take His Title" (Summer 1978), I was astonished to see that you'd think Bob Backlund would

(Continued on page 44)

BEST

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from
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Famous TV
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Man" 3
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It was moments before the match. Bob Backlund was alone in his dressing room, doing warm up exercises. Suddenly, he was attacked by hated manager Freddie Blassie. Read how this potential disaster for Backlund turned into a humiliation for Blassie . . . in Blassie's own words!

"IF THE COPS DIDN'T STOP ME, I WOULD HAVE KILLED BACKLUND!"

BY FRED BLASSIE

I SAW THE slimy, pencil-neck geek working out in his dressing room. I hate him! What'd he expect, that I'd bow before him? That rotten lousy stinker.

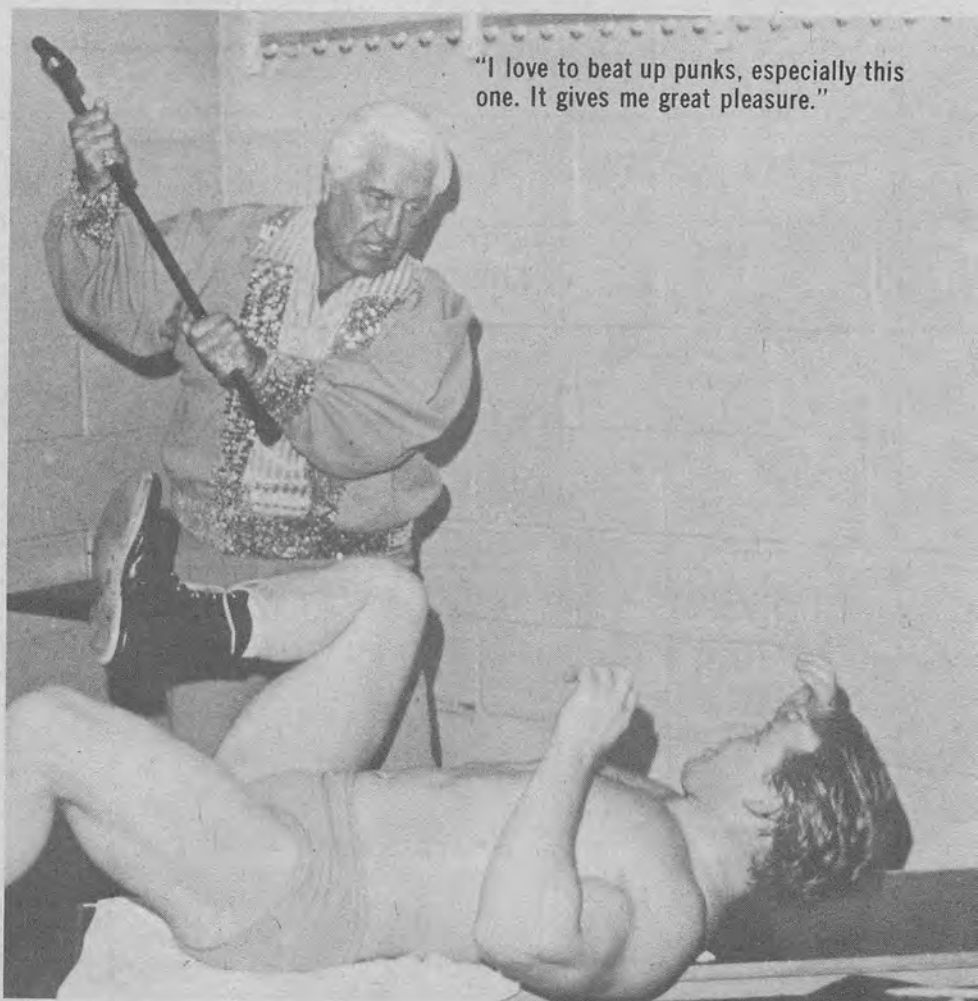
So I'm sitting there, minding my own damn business, and that reincarnation of Mickey Mouse's great-aunt starts hassling me.

"Hey, Blassie, when ya gonna manage a champ," Backlund screamed, annoying the hell out of me. Well, what did you expect a fine member of the community like myself would do? I responded politely and with great dignity, as every knowledgeable fan knows I *always* do.

"Shove out your ugly face, you pencil-neck sewer rat," I said nicely.

That shut the lunatic fertilizer king, or queen, from Minnesota

(Continued on page 46)



"I love to beat up punks, especially this one. It gives me great pleasure."

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And Suddenly You Are Face-To-Face With A MUGGER...

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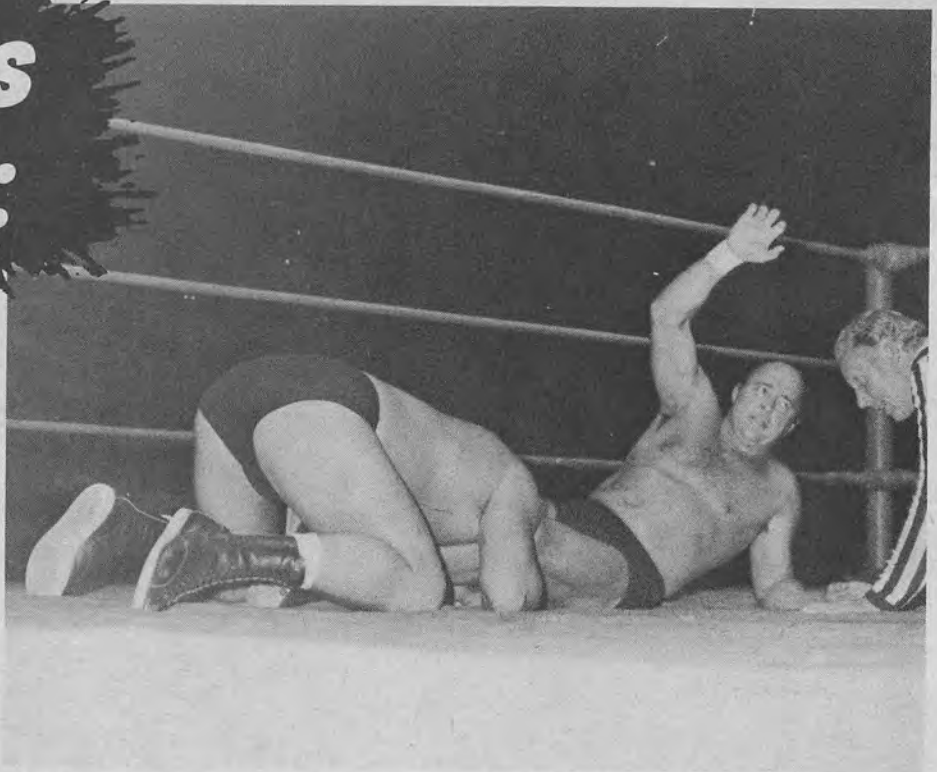
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"There are various wrestling camps around the country where youngsters can go to improve their skills!"
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Each day hundreds of letters come pouring into our offices asking the same question, "How can I become a professional wrestler?" Fans, your wish has now come true. Here are wrestling's top stars telling you how you can break into wrestling and earn top dollar

THE FIVE MEN sat in wary silence around the large rectangular table. It was obvious that tensions would only increase as the day progressed and hostility might reach the violent stage. We felt there was no alternative, that the gain would be greater than the risks. That's why we invited five such

dissimilar men to sit in our offices.

Before you call us crazy, let us tell you the reason we asked Dusty Rhodes, Superstar Billy Graham, Greg Valentine, Lou Albano, and Verne Gagne to the same place at the same time. Or

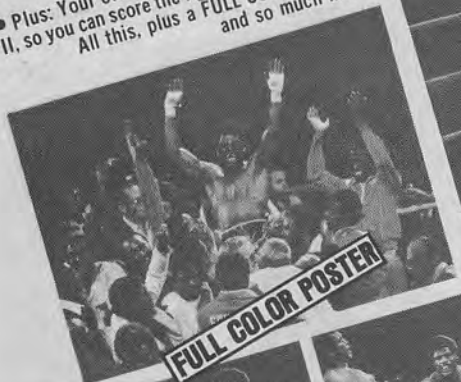
(Continued on page 50)

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THE HATRED HE creates among Florida wrestling fans is absolute and unailing. He consistently receives the loudest jeers of anyone when introduced in the ring. During the matches, he is a target for hostile threats. After matches, he often has to smash through belligerent and threatening mobs waiting for him outside the arena.

He is now the object of a petition signed by over 1,000 wrestling fans from such diverse Florida communities as Orlando and West Palm Beach. They want him out and banned forever.

"You watch this guy and see the sort of stuff he pulls in the ring. It's a disgrace," Clyde Benefield of Winter Park said to a reporter at ringside.

The victim of these vilifications must be Ivan Koloff. No. Killer Karl Kox? Wrong. Bobby Duncum? All wrong. This man is not even a wrestler. He is referee Sonny Meyers, a veteran official who is absolutely dismayed by the angry reactions of the fans.

"A referee's job is a very difficult one," Meyers said. "You're always in for criticism, but you expect that when you take the job. What bothers me is the degree of their reactions. They really hate me and I don't think it's justified."

Meyers has been singled out for what many fans believe is favoritism toward the rule-breakers. Two specific examples are illustrative of Meyers' alleged bias.

A recent match between Southern champion Bob Roop and Rocky Johnson evoked thunderous boos toward Meyers' decision. Johnson had apparently defeated Roop and was awarded the belt. Roop complained to Meyers that Johnson had grabbed his trunks and fouled him for the

victory. Meyers accepted Roop's protest and gave the belt back to Roop.

"It was an obvious foul," Meyers explained. "When someone does that he is disqualified. That's what the book says."

angrily. "I can only see so many things and do so many things. The fans have the advantage of instant replay and different angles to see the action. I don't have the best seat in the house, standing in the ring. What the hell do they want from me?"

THE REFEREE THE FANS WANT BANNED

It would have been one thing had Meyers disqualified Rocky *during* the match, but he didn't. This unsettling behavior has been repeated in other ways. Such as in tag team matches, when two villains are pounding away on a fan favorite. The hero's partner tries to intervene and Meyers *holds* him back.

"That's not allowed," Meyers said. "Again, the rules are very clear on that."

But why hold the fan favorites and permit the villains to flaunt the rules?

"I can't be everywhere at once," Meyers protested

Above, opposite page: Meyers is engaged in a heated argument with Rocky Johnson. Below: Sonny tries to stop Johnson from chasing Bob Roop. Right: Meyers in his heyday as a wrestler against Togo.



He is the most hated man on the Florida wrestling scene. Fans have joined together to denounce him. Petitions have been signed to ban him. Surprisingly, this man is not even a wrestler. He is referee Sonny Meyers, and this is his side of the story



bellowed. "I would never accept any payment. I have been refereeing for a long time and my integrity has never been questioned like this. Sure, there have been unpopular decisions, but fans think that if a rulebreaker wins there must be a fix somewhere. That's ridiculous.

"Rulebreakers can win matches just like the good guys. They're subject to more disqualifications because of their conduct, but they do win matches legitimately. It's just that the fans hate to see something like that. They hate to see the forces of evil triumph so much that they won't accept that it is a legal win."

This constant bombardment on Meyers' honesty has begun to undermine his authority. He is determined, however, to overcome this storm and continue to make decisions based on his experienced judgement.

"I won't be swayed from doing what I believe is right. I don't care how many petitions they sign. I won't be intimidated," he said.

Yet the fans believe that Meyers will be bounced out.

"We'll get that lackey out of here, you just wait and see," said Frank Jenkins, a fan from Orlando.

All that we can do is wait for an investigation to conclusively establish whether the fans' charges are valid. Such an investigation must take place. More than a man's reputation is at stake. A sport's reputation is also at stake. □



"It's annoying to have my integrity questioned like this. Despite what people may think, I have no prejudices when I enter the ring. I try to maintain my impartiality at all times. I do not favor anyone. Why can't people accept that I can make honest mistakes like anyone else. But they're honest mistakes, believe me."

What seems to disturb Meyers more than anything else is the growing rumors that he is being paid off by rulebreakers to give them matches they have obviously lost.

"That's a damn lie!" Meyers



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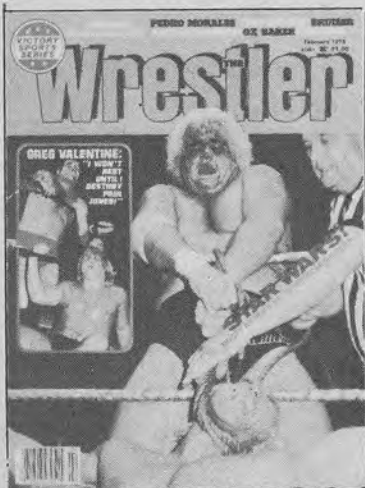
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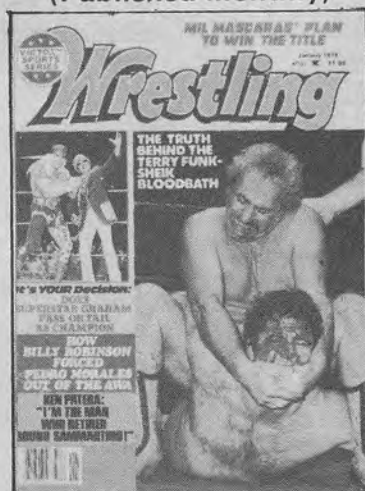
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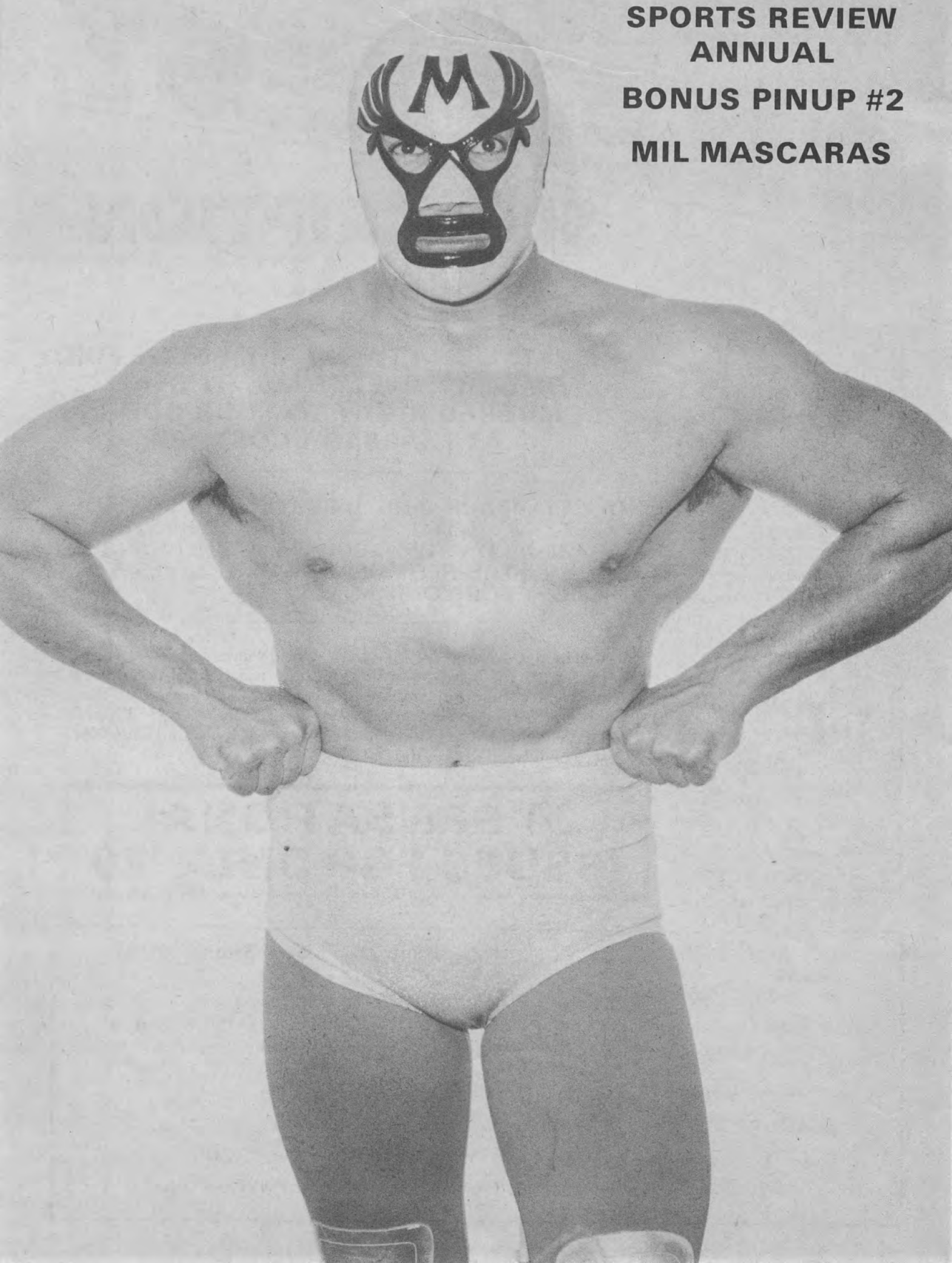
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BONUS PINUP #2

MIL MASCARAS



WE RECENTLY RECEIVED a rather interesting fan letter. Generally, a fan's letter, however valuable we may consider it, won't provoke a special story. This is not an average letter.

The writer is Mrs. Maggie Tucker, a 71-year-old grandmother. Her fascinating observations about wrestling as she has known it for the past 40 years, her observations about present-day wrestlers and several interesting anecdotes, led us to interview her.

She is a vivacious, intelligent woman with an intuitive wit and charm uniquely hers.



This is Maggie Tucker, one of the most knowledgeable wrestling fans in the world. She's been a fan for over 30 years!

A: It was very different. I think the wrestlers were a lot more colorful then without being at all obnoxious. The fans were able to participate more directly. Wrestlers would call out to the fans and they would often choose the next hold. Of course, sometimes when the wrestler was waiting for a reply he got bounced off the ropes.

Q: Who were some of your early favorites in the 40s and 50s?

A: One of my early favorites was Ricki Star, who was called the Ballet Wrestler.

A WRESTLING FAN SOUNDS OFF

And now, here's Maggie!

Q: Thank you for consenting to this interview, Mrs. Tucker.

A: It's Maggie, please.

Q: How long have you been following wrestling?

A: I first got into wrestling in the early 1940s. I was raising a family and, though that took up a large part of my time, I was looking for something of interest beyond the usual household hobbies. I went to one wrestling match and just fell in love with the sport.

Q: What was it like then?



One of Maggie's all-time favorites, the late Antonino Rocca, is choked by one of her all-time hated wrestlers, former NWA heavyweight champion, Buddy Rogers.

He would take a ballet slipper and twirl it around before every match, then toss it out into the audience. One of my biggest regrets is that I never caught one of them. But he was very big. The women used to swoon over him, much like they did over Sinatra and Crosby, and later at the Beatles. He was very impressive.

Q: You liked Antonino Rocca, didn't you?

A: Oh, yes, he was my all-time favorite. Unfortunately he's no longer with us. But there

(Continued on page 58)

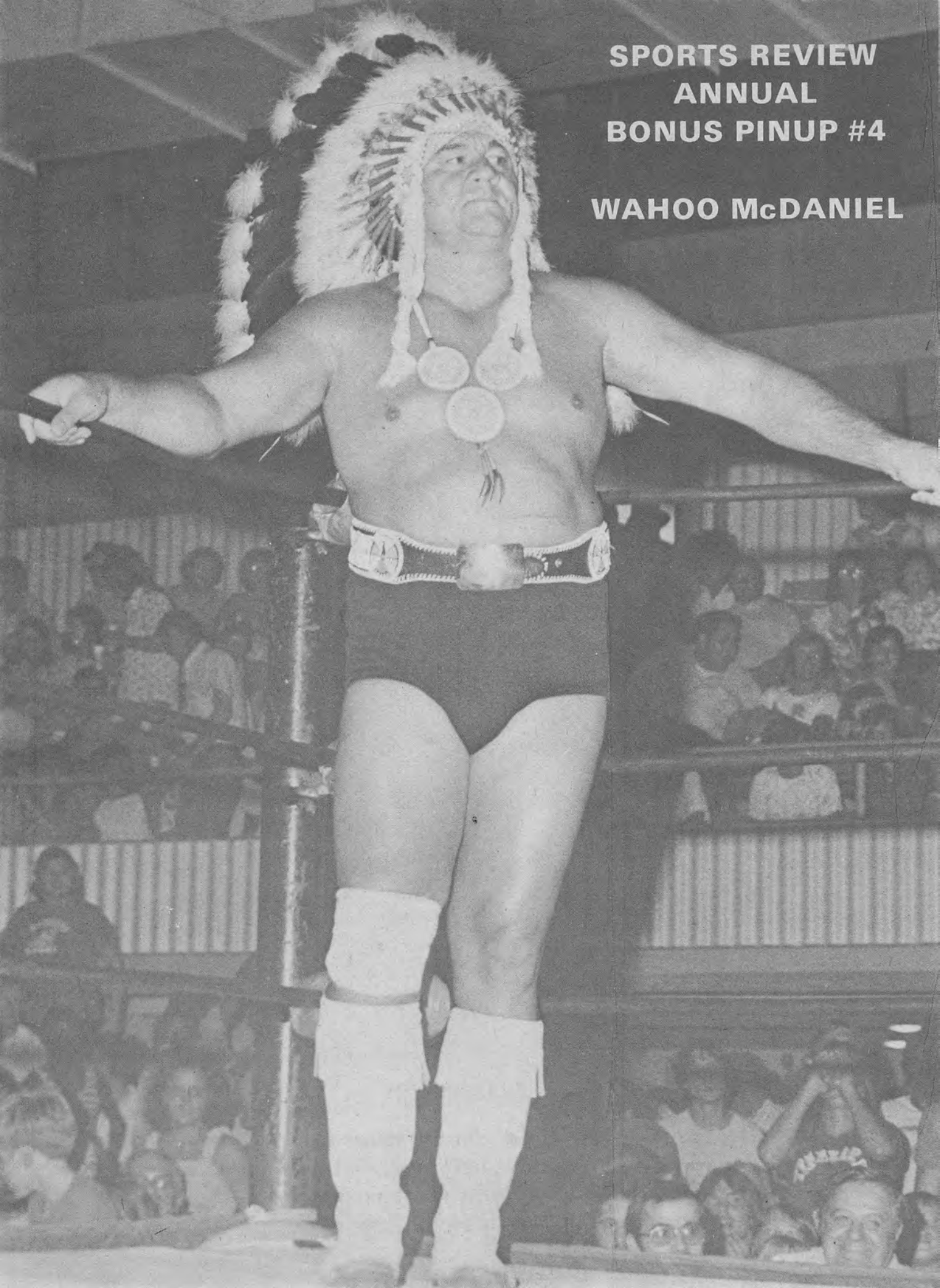
Mrs. Maggie Tucker is one of a kind. She is a veteran wrestling fan and her observations about the mat wars are humorous, very informative, and controversial

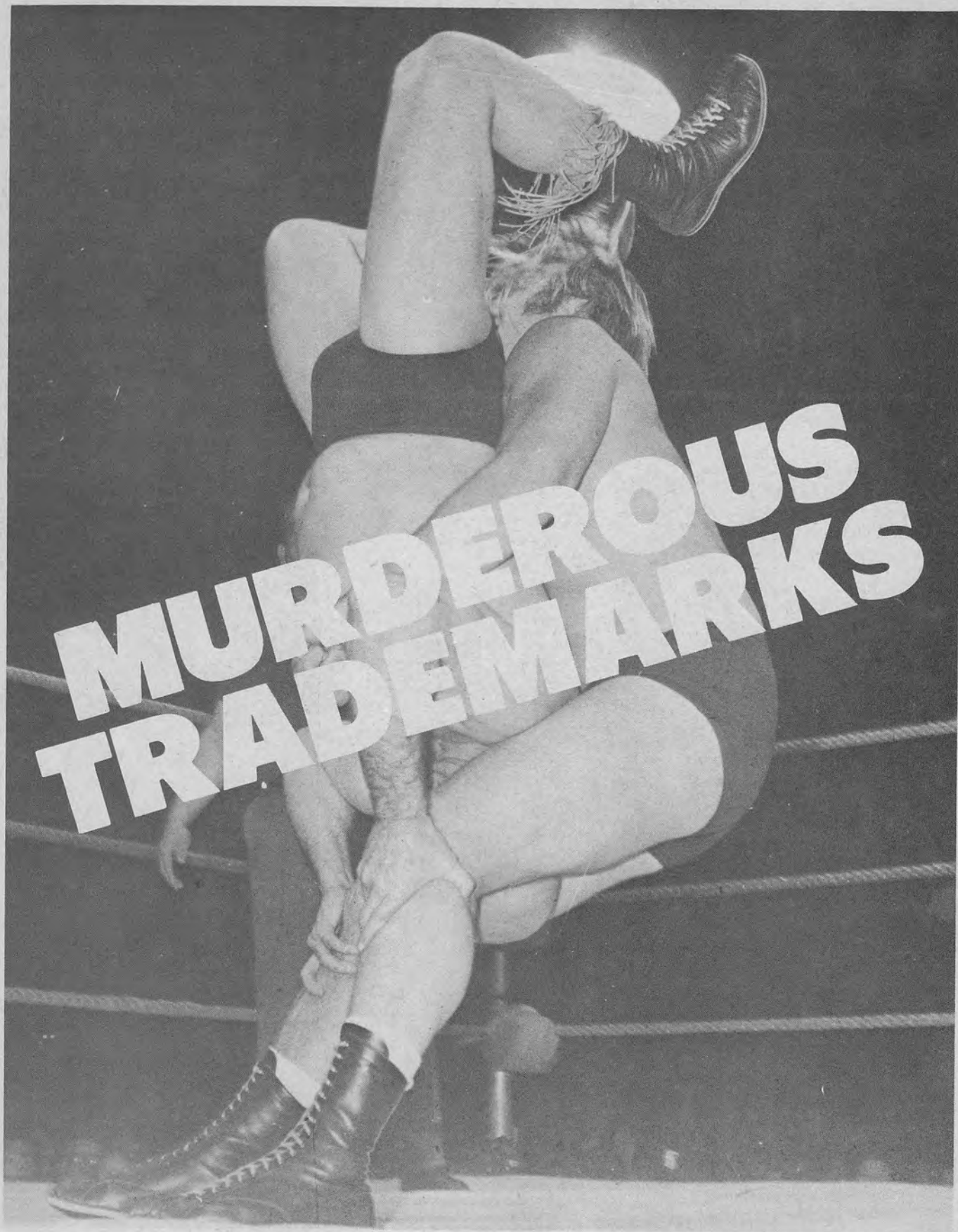
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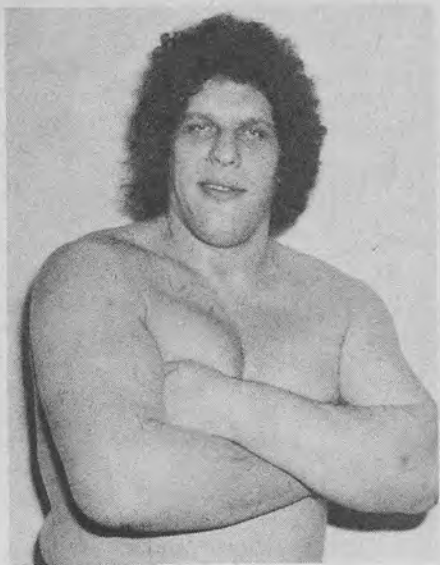
WAHOO McDANIEL





You have seen them use these deadly holds over and over again. These dangerous weapons have become their trademarks. These are the murderous trademarks which make each wrestler feared throughout wrestling rings all over the world

ANDRE THE GIANT



FRENCH HEAD SMASH

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I have such a hard head that my Head Smash works so well. It used to be that I relied solely on my incredible size and strength, but then I realized I had to have one finishing move.

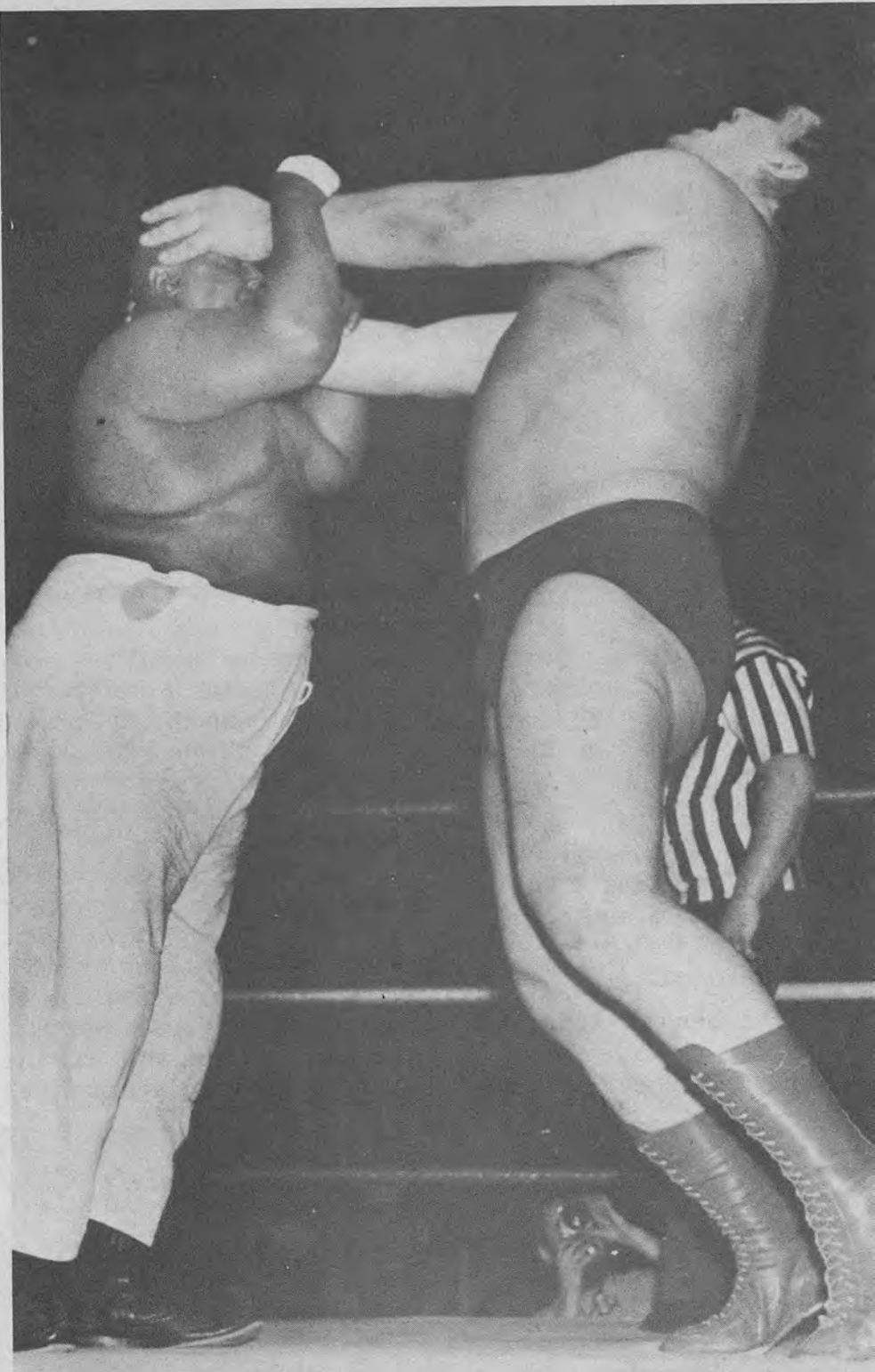
I studied myself in the mirror, assumed different poses, and tried to figure out what would be most effective. I had a lot of trouble figuring this one out.

Then I thought how great it would be to use my head. It is a very difficult move. It is not just pounding my skull into another person. I have to be able to get up enough steam and position my head exactly where I want, or else it doesn't work.

And I get a big headache.

The first couple of times I used it, I was amazed at how great a maneuver it was. My opponents were unable to deal with it. They just fell to the canvas.

Once I saw how impressive this move made my entire game, I realized why men spend years

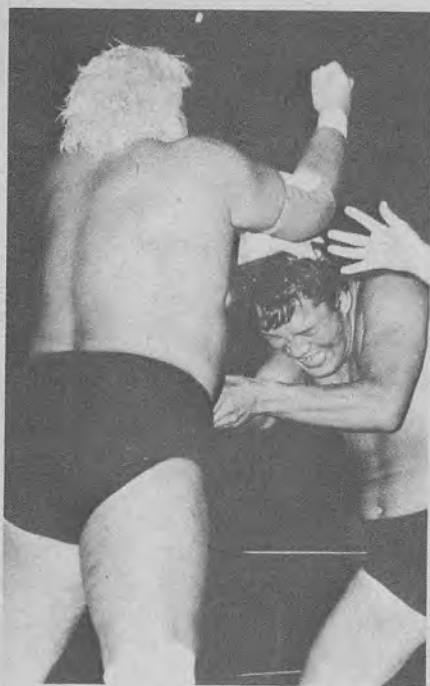


When the "French Head Smash" is used, there is no telling what kind of damage is done to an opponent. Damage can range from a mere headache to a severe concussion

perfecting just such a move. I was fortunate to discover this through my own ingenuity and intelligence.

Still, I work hard on this move

every day and constantly try to improve it. I see how much my fans love the move and that pleases me, because whatever I do, I do for the fans. □



DUSTY RHODES BIONIC ELBOW

To finish his opponent, the "American Dream" likes to do it in style by using his "Bionic Elbow." One taste of this lethal weapon insures that most men will not want to wrestle Dusty a second time!



A LOT OF people have questioned the secret behind my Bionic Elbowsmash. Some people say I load up my elbow with lead weights. Others say that my elbow is hollow and just metal, not flesh.

Now I'll tell you the truth about the Bionic Elbowsmash and why wrestling people consider it the most lethal weapon around.

The biggest reason for its success is leverage. Maybe people think you just slam the

elbow into a guy's head and down he goes. I wish it were that simple. You have to position the elbow at exactly the right angle and wait until the other guy's head or body is at the proper angle before you can deliver the blow.

This requires patience and a whole lot of timing, baby. When I first developed the Bionic Elbowsmash years ago, I would try it out only to see it fail. I knew it was a helluva good move and I couldn't understand why it didn't work. Then I realized the

secret ingredient of leverage. After that, it became unstoppable.

I wanted a really good distinguishing move for myself. I tried out other types of moves but I didn't feel comfortable with them. Some guys boast about how great their moves are, but I'm not that impressed.

Now everyone around the world knows of the Dusty Rhodes Bionic Elbowsmash. This move is a Dusty original, baby. All mine. □



I WAS ABOUT 10 years old when my dad called me into our training room-basement and said he had a surprise for me. I just shrugged and trotted after him.

"I know you want to be a wrestler like me," Dad said. "And if you want to be successful and uphold the good name of Funk, then you're going to need the best move around. Remember what it's called?"

I just shivered and said, "Spinning Toehold."

Dad taught me how to use it, how to avoid serious injury to my opponent and how to avoid injury to myself. I worked night and day on it until I thought I had it down pat. One day I asked Dad to watch me work out. He seemed unusually grim and just nodded. Dad watched me use it

TERRY FUNK



SPINNING TOEHOLD

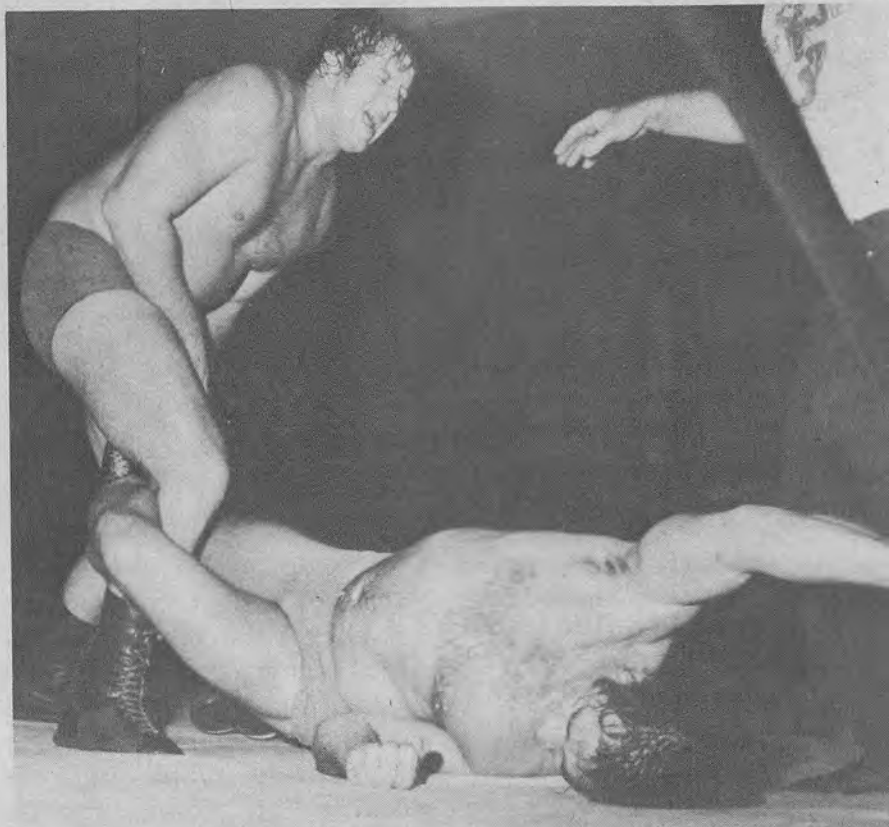
on a willing friend but didn't say anything. He politely asked my friend to leave and then he took me aside. I was positive I had loused up the move.

"That was excellent, Terry," Dad said. "But I can see you haven't been studying as much as you should at school."

"But Dad," I protested. "I wanted to work on this move so you'd be proud of me."

"Terry, I don't want you to be only a wrestler. I want you to be a man. There's more to life than a wrestling move. You must always remember that."

Dad is gone, but I'll never forget what he did for me. Maybe I still would have become a professional wrestler without his guidance, but I never would have been the human being I am without his strength. □



It was a murderous trademark handed down from his father, Dory Funk Sr. You know when Terry Funk applies his "Spinning Toehold," he is certain to have his hand raised in victory

BOB BACKLUND



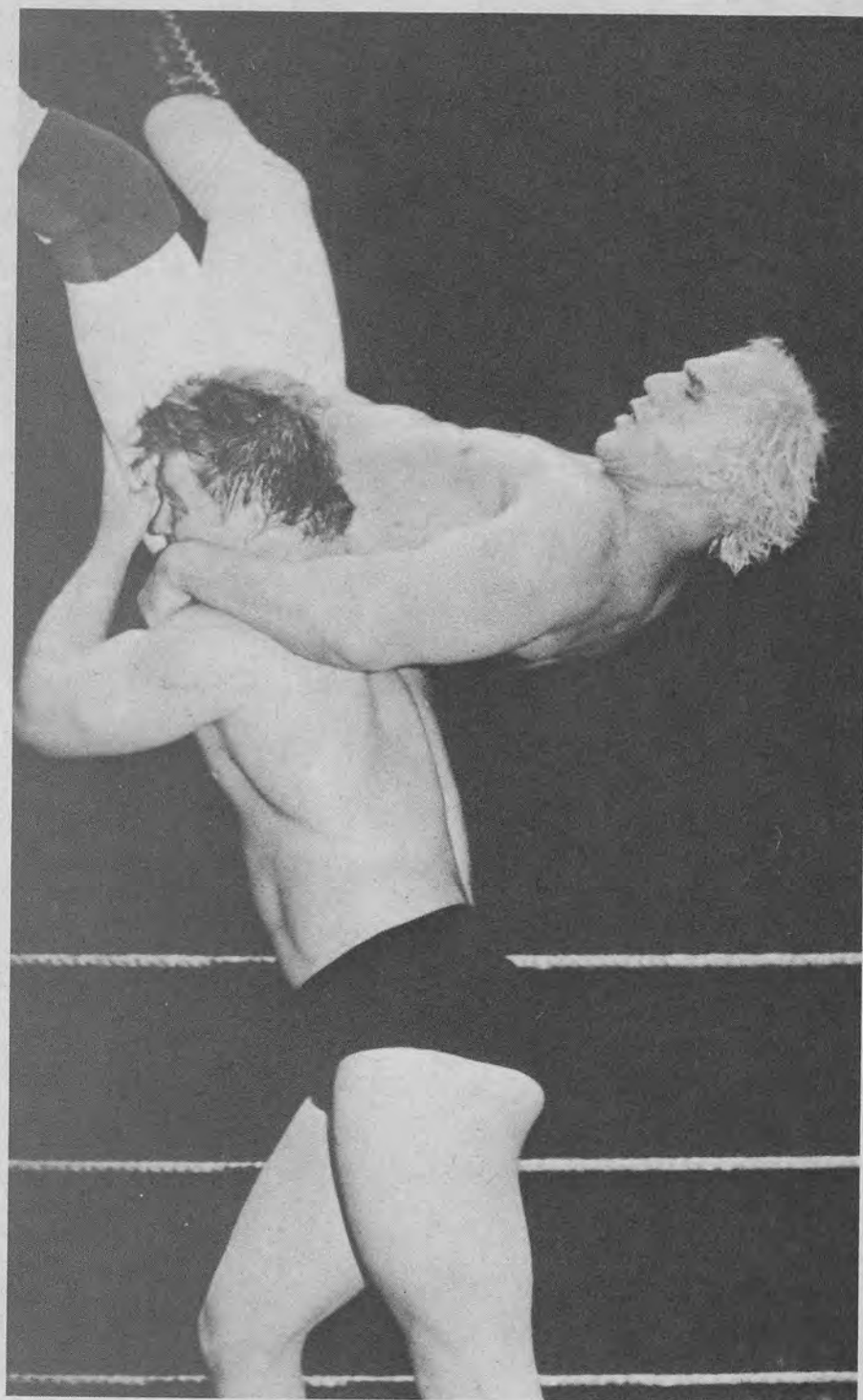
ATOMIC SPINEBREAKER

AFTER MY FIRST pro matches, I realized that if I was ever to reach my dream of becoming a premier wrestler, much less a champion, I needed a good wind-up move.

In college, I had gotten by with sheer agility and strength, but in the pros, a lot more was required. I hope I'm not straying from the topic, but I didn't realize how good these guys were until I faced them night after night and took my licks.

Anyway, I saw Red Bastien use this super move, what he called the Atomic Spinebreaker. He totally demolished his opponents without crippling them, which was exactly what I wanted.

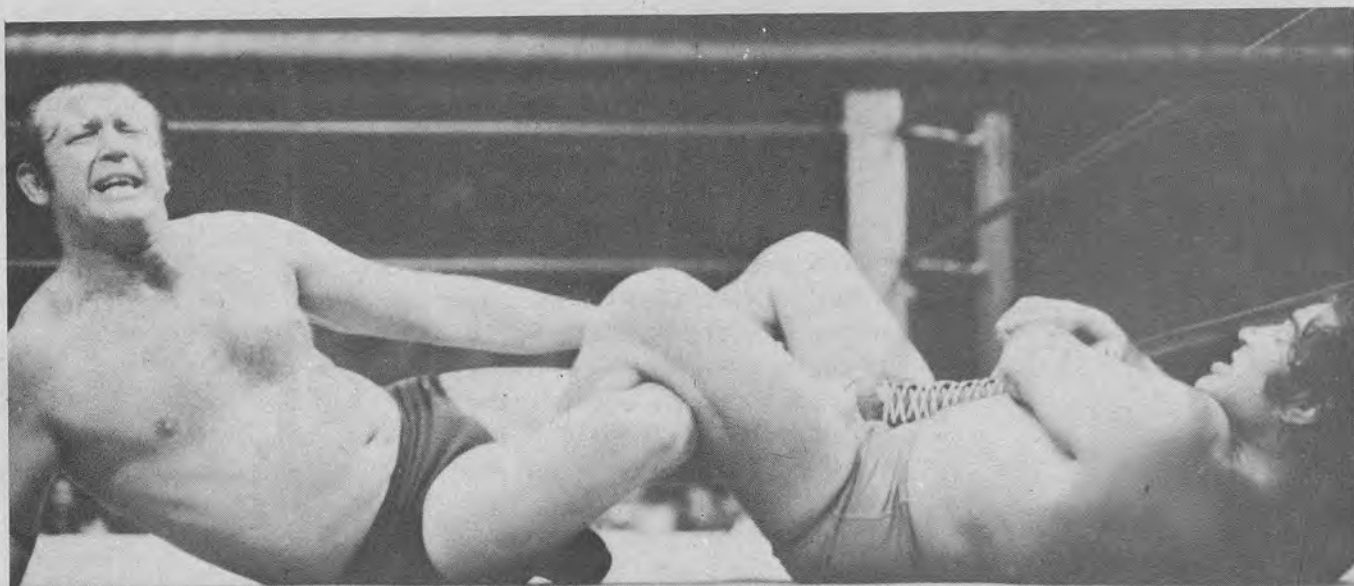
Being really impressed, I started working on it myself and adapting it to my own unique skills. In a while, I found it to be the most natural move I could have developed. I just felt good about it. Really good after I whipped some bad guys with it.



This trademark has lead Bob Backlund to realize his greatest achievement, the WWF heavyweight championship. There are still worlds for Backlund to conquer and the "Atomic Spinebreaker" will be with him all along

It's not easy to implement. But once I get the guy in my clutches there's no way he can escape. I still get a sore knee sometimes from guys bouncing off it every night, but I'm working on some special exercises to compensate for that.

I really enjoyed telling my fans how I came to use the Atomic Spinebreaker. But please, don't use it on your friends. □



JACK BRISCO

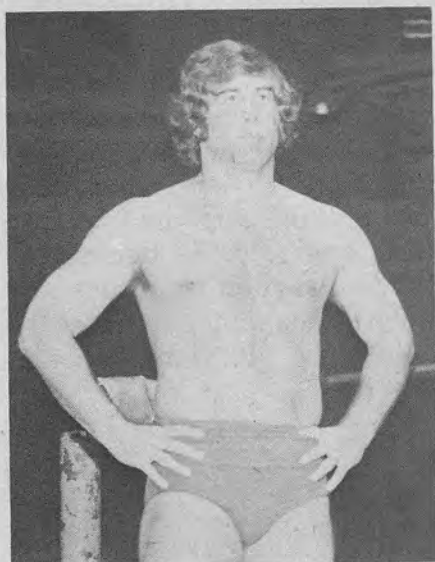


FIGURE-FOUR LEGLOCK

BEFORE I GET into this in detail, I want to state that it was the great Eddie Graham who taught me this unique hold. I don't think Eddie has received enough credit as one of the truly great men of wrestling. He's exerted immense influence on everyone who's ever come in contact with him, and my success is attributed primarily to Eddie.

Now, for the Figure-Four Leglock. I was a young wrestler just learning the ropes. No pun,



please. I saw Eddie using this superb move and I approached him after the match, with great hesitation. I was in complete awe of the man.

He was really great to me. We spent a lot of time together as teacher and pupil. It took me a while to get the hang of it, but Eddie was always very patient and understanding. He remembered what it was like to be young and green.

After several weeks of

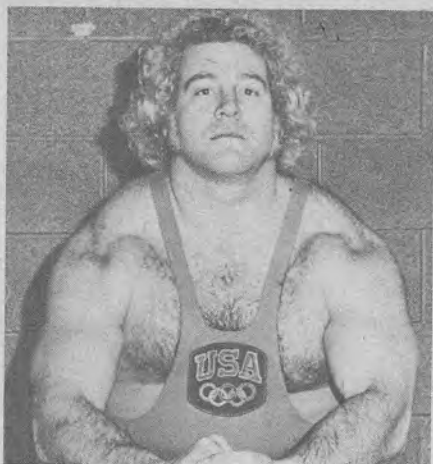
intensive practice, I asked Eddie if I was ready to use it in a match. I'll never forget what he said.

"Son, you were ready the day you said you'd work until midnight."

That first night I used it—God, was I nervous. I knew Eddie was sitting out there and I was just hoping I wouldn't blow it. Well, I didn't. I won the match, won a new move and made a devoted, lifelong friend. □

It was taught to him by Eddie Graham. Now Jack Brisco uses the "Figure-Four Leglock" with such deadly accuracy that even the most talented wrestlers will fall victim to it

KEN PATERA



SWINGING NECKBREAKER

The "Swinging Neckbreaker" has already crippled several men. Ken Patera is proud of his invention and vows to continue using it. Once it is applied with full force, chances are it is the last

GUYS WHO GIVE out all that crap about crediting this great man and that great man with their killer moves are a bunch of sniveling mongoloids.

Let me tell you this and let there be no mistake about it. I developed my devastating Swinging Neckbreaker. No one showed me or helped me. I did it all on my own, like I got to the top, on my own because the SOB's who run wrestling are afraid of me and don't want me to be successful.

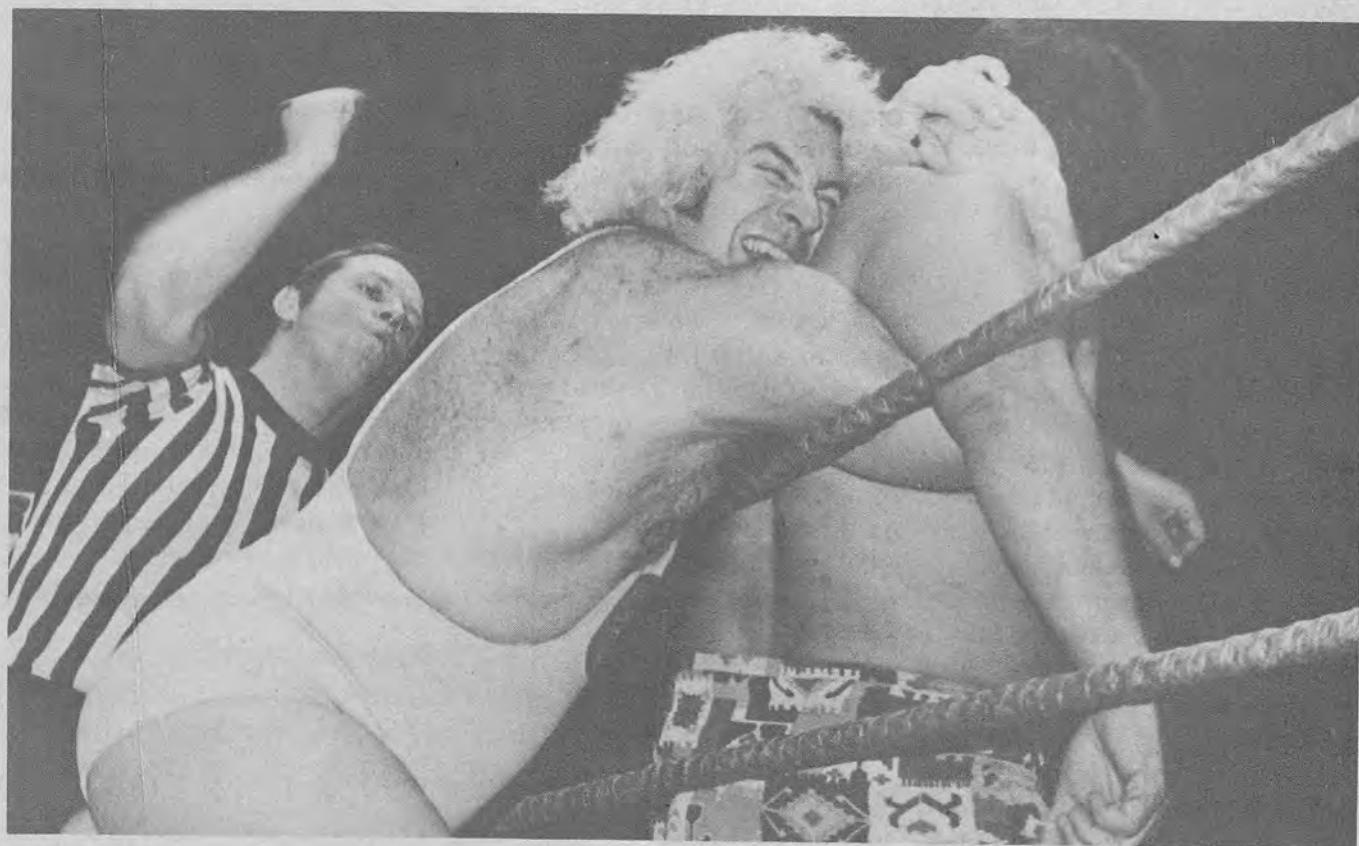
Enough of that. Everyone knows how I feel about good guys so I won't go into it any more. For those fans who can read, and there aren't too many of them, and for all those ugly dames who recognize my great beauty, I'll explain the origin of my savage move.

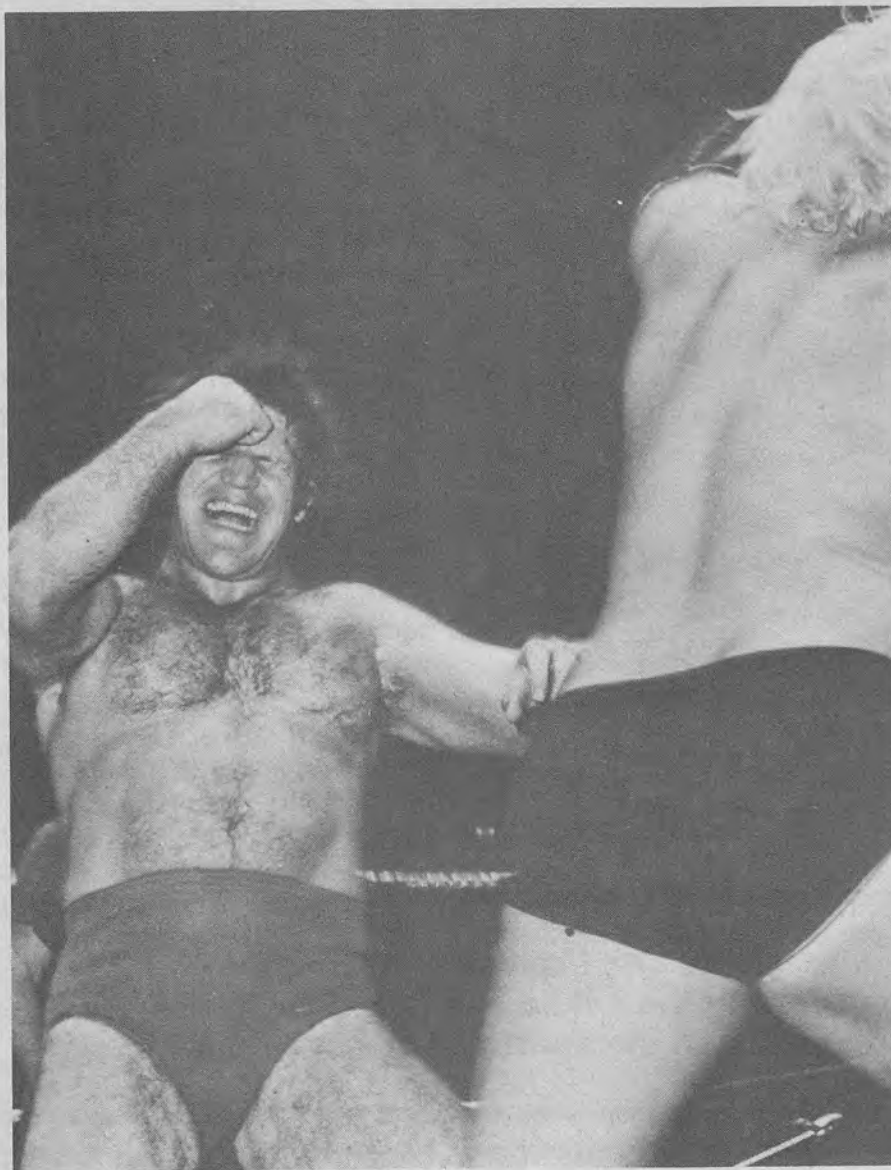
I loved to get guys into full-nelsons. That's fun, but it wasn't enough to simply squeeze the air out of them. I wanted more. So one lovely evening, when I got this ugly guy in a crunching full-nelson, I decided to have a little fun for myself. I start

swinging him around, la-dee-da, whistling as I do, then I decide to see what happens if his feet leave the ground. He couldn't breathe but I did have fun. So I swing faster and faster and start singing and before you know it, I got bored and tossed him aside. He was out cold.

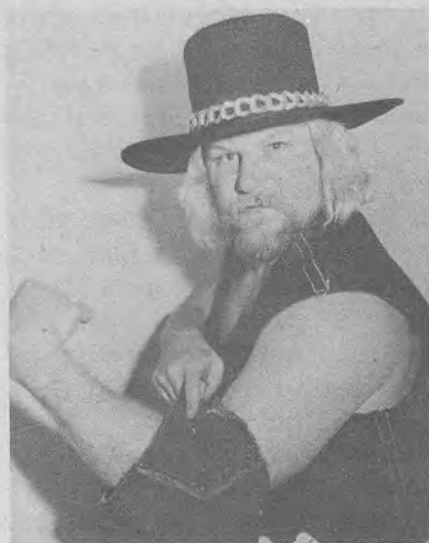


I realized what a fine move this was and how many careers I could end. Remember Billy White Wolf? He ain't got no neck anymore. All because of the famous and wondrous Ken Patera neckbreaker. And, as the man says, that's the name of that tune. □





STAN HANSEN



THE LARIAT

Wouldn't ya know it, they decided I couldn't use it anymore. The idiots were afraid of it. I wouldn't listen to them so I kept right on knocking runners on their butts and putting people in the hospital. Finally, the dudes who run pro football threw me the hell out of the sport.

Imagine that!

It was at that point that a full-time career in professional wrestling looked mighty good. I knew I was tough enough to whip any dude's butt, but I wondered if I could somehow use my Lariat move in the ring. I found out I could, and I did.

Guys crumbled real quick, just like the runners on those chilly Sunday afternoons. This time they couldn't throw me out, even though they tried.

The crying towels really popped up when I broke Bruno Sammartino's neck. Hell, I didn't even know he had a neck, that hairy ape.

So you can all see how my move started and why I'm considered the supreme wrestler in the world. □

Bruno Sammartino became just another casualty on the "Lariat's" list. Hansen has gone on to break necks time and time again. There is no escape from this terror



I USED TO be a damn good football player, a scourge in the professional ranks every Sunday afternoon. My key weapon, aside from my natural strength and courage, was my

famous Lariat move. The dumb-ass runner would come charging down the field, his ugly face down and boom, my arm would lash out and snap him into the grass.

I DECIDED TO enter the illustrious ranks of professional wrestling fully prepared. I knew how exacting this career would be and I knew how demanding the fans would be. I did not wish to let them or me down.

Thus, I worked long, hard hours in the gymnasium on a perfect finishing move. I tried a number of different ones and was constantly polishing them up, trying them out, then rejecting them.

Finally, when it seemed that I would not have the repertoire I wanted, I discovered the Flying Bodypress.

Perhaps this comment, if said by another man, would sound like egotism. I can assure you it is not. I do not think anyone can use the Flying Bodypress like I can. I have been blessed with

MIL MASCARAS



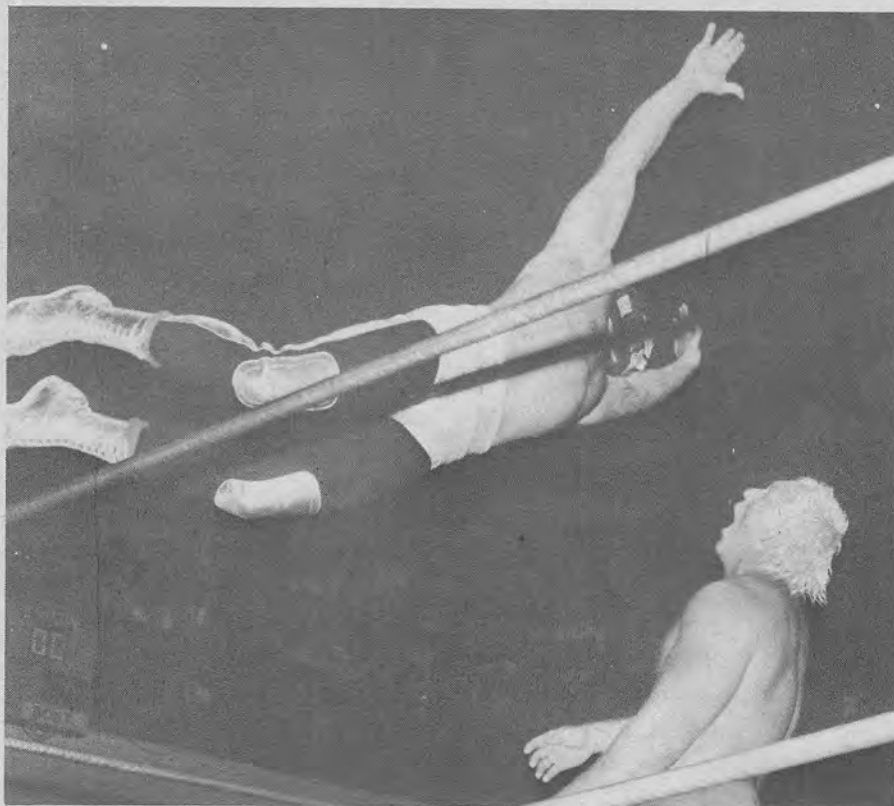
FLYING BODYPRESS

the natural gifts of agility and strength, plus an amazing inherent balance. The Flying Bodypress is a natural for me.

I would like to say how I discovered this magnificent move. I was standing in the gym, wondering, and realized that the only real move I would ever want to use had to be a combination of strength and agility. I had almost hit bottom trying to use only one of these ingredients. I was quite delighted when this combination became feasible.

I always enjoy sharing the secrets of my wrestling career with all my devoted fans. I cannot say that any man influenced me. But I can say in all honesty that, if not for the fans, I would not be the success I am today. □

It is a thing of grace to witness. But Mil Mascaras' "Flying Bodypress" is far deadlier than it appears to the naked eye. It has been used to pin some of the top names in the sport. It has never failed



CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW



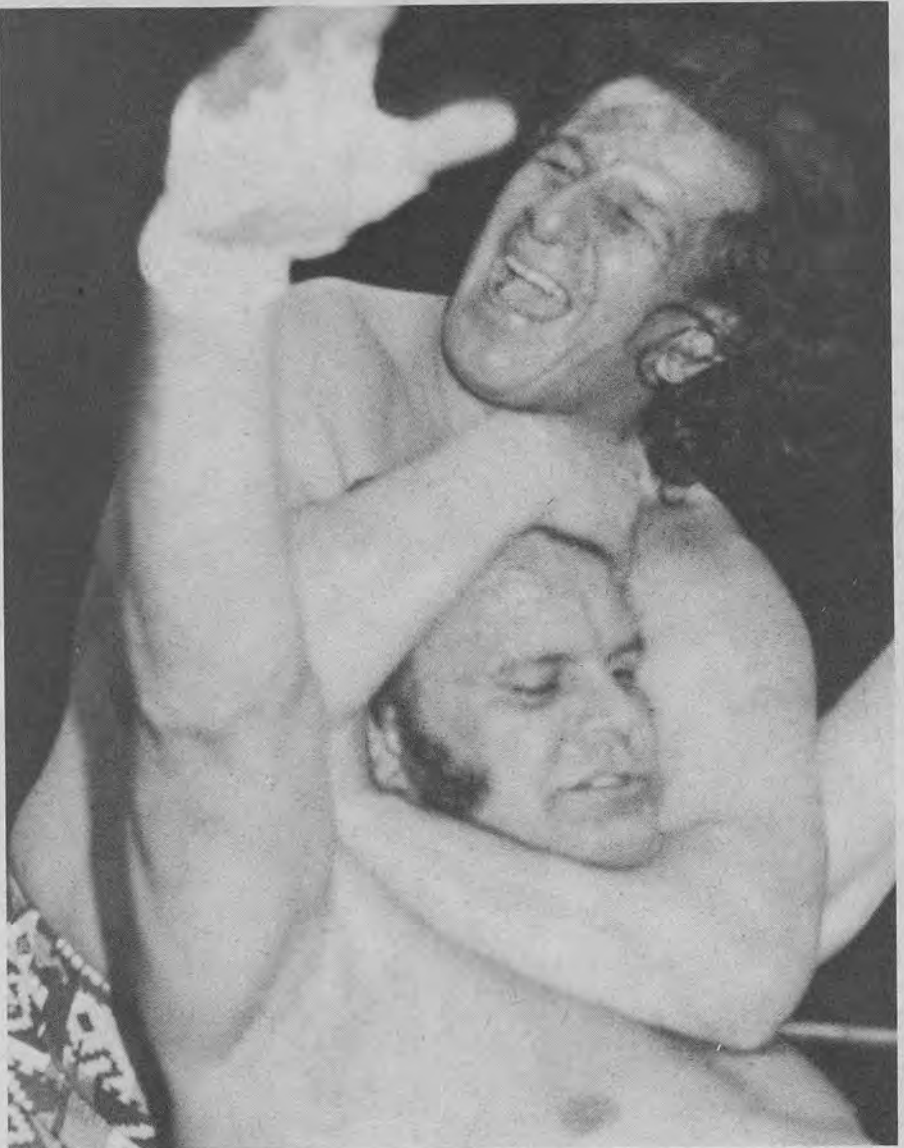
THE SLEEPER

I AM VERY proud of my great and bountiful Indian heritage. When in the ring, I have tried to conduct myself with dignity so I never shame my people. So, when I first started wrestling, I wanted a finishing move that would be compatible with my own philosophy.

I observed many brilliant wrestlers and saw many different maneuvers. But it was the great Indian wrestlers, men like Chief Big Heart, who really inspired me.

From them I learned the powerful Sleeper Hold. I was leery of using it at first, but I overcame my hesitation when I saw that it could be used without maiming your opponent. I never wanted to hurt anyone, just win.

A feeling of great spiritual power surged through me the first time I used it. I felt like I was carrying on the magnificent tradition of my people and



It took years to develop and perfect the "Sleeper," one of the most complex and misunderstood holds in the entire sport. When Jay Strongbow uses it, you are seeing it applied with an expert's precision

bringing great honor to all the American Indians who love me.

Several people warned me not to use the hold. They said I wasn't mature enough to handle its tremendous power. I knew otherwise. I would never use a hold for anything other than victory.



To do otherwise would invite disgrace upon my name and the memories of my forefathers. For an Indian, that is unthinkable.

I hope my many fans gained some interesting insights into the origin of my Sleeper Hold. I was deeply pleased to share it with them. □

Mascaras, Andre, and Maivia:



WHICH ONE IS THE SPY?

THE IMPACT IS harsh, potentially devastating, both to the careers of the men involved and wrestling itself. To suggest that one man has, over a long period of time, been spying on his unsuspecting friends is staggering.

Peter Maivia. Andre the

Giant. Mil Mascaras. Is one of these men a spy?

Ponder that, if you dare.

This concept seems, on its face, inconceivable. Which man could it possibly be? Chief Peter Maivia. The gentle man with the soul of a wise warrior? A man who demonstrates perfect

decency in the ring?

Is this man a spy for the rulebreakers?

Or is it Andre? The invincible giant, the wrestler who refuses to inflict undue pain on his opponents, this man, this wonderful human being?

Is this man a spy for the

rulebreakers?

Or is it Mil Mascaras, the only man who has elevated the style of scientific wrestling to a sacred art, the symbol of integrity and sportsmanship to millions of fans around the world.

Is this man a spy for the rulebreakers?

These charges have finally come to the forefront. Some of the sources must be questioned. We know that they would do almost anything to further their own aims. Still, these charges must be investigated.

"I know for a fact that Mil Mascaras has been wrestling unmasked and as a rulebreaker for the past five years now," claimed Captain Lou Albano. "He has begged me to be his



Peter Maivia proves that he is the boss in the ring. Here his opponent grimaces in agony. Can this man really be a spy?

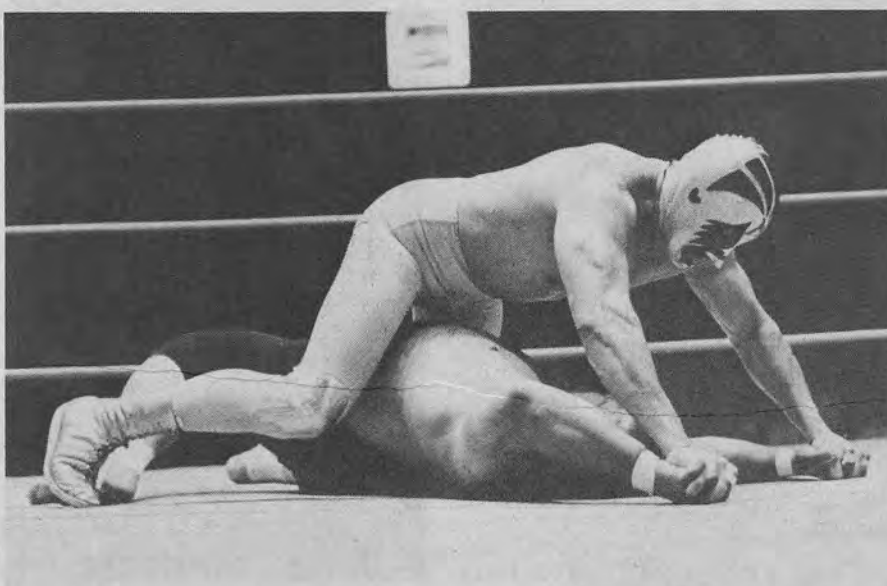
All was rosy when Mil Mascaras, Andre the Giant, and Peter Maivia joined forces. But now accusations are being filed left and right that one of them is actually a spy for the rulebreakers. Is it true? And if so can this one man be stopped from dooming every scientific wrestler in the sport

manager. I told him first he must prove he is loyal to me.

"So he regularly calls me up and gives me information about what Andre is planning to do and what Maivia will do and what other scientific Mickey Mouse wrestlers are planning. It's about time the truth came out."

It is well-known that Albano hates men like Mascaras. And, like we said, it is easy to dismiss his words as vicious, false, charges. Still, we must investigate further.

Did you know that Mascaras has been giving information to Albano for some time," claimed Ken Patera. "Lou said he's



Mil Mascaras shows his fans where he likes to see his opponents. He can really show us the way a good match should be held.

thinking of teaming me with Mascaras." Ken Patera is of course managed by Albano. Perhaps we must take Patera's "testimony" with a grain of salt.

The extent of this alleged treachery is wide-spread. According to Albano and Fred Blassie, Mascaras furnishes rulebreakers with reports about once a week.

"I'll show you documents, written reports," Blassie screamed over the phone. "I have the proof which will finally show Mil Mascaras is now, and always has been, a member of my stable!"



Superstar Billy Graham begs the ref to break the powerful hold of Peter Maivia. The hold was perfectly legal and not broken up.

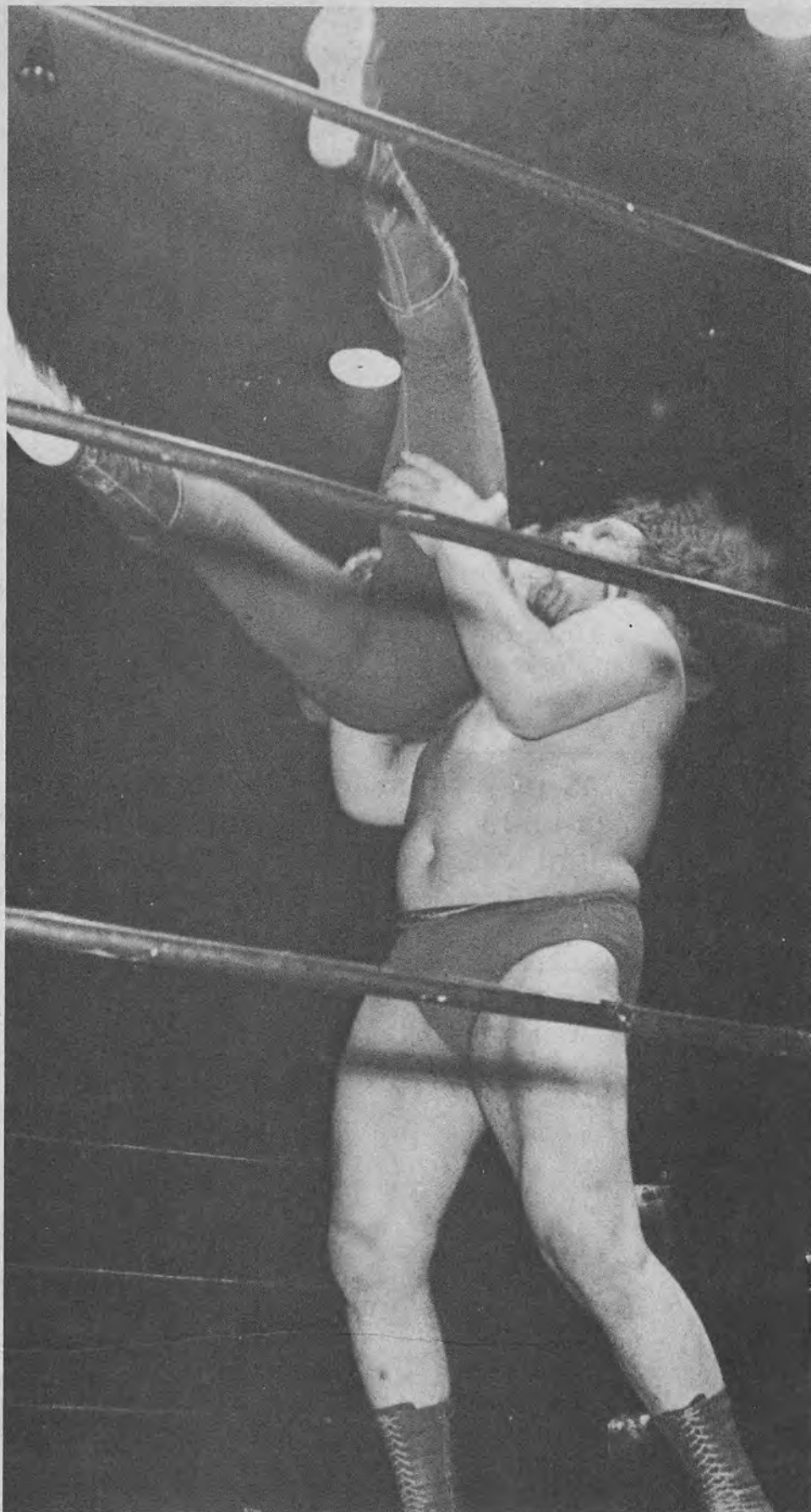
Blassie's stable! Does Fred really expect us to believe that.

"Damn straight," Blassie thundered. Mascaras is one of my top stars!"

Peter Maivia was angry anyone would believe—or even listen to—Albano, Patera, and Blassie.

"I've known Mil for a long time and there's no way he's a spy," Peter said. "The man is a gentleman in and out of the ring.

(Continued on page 64)

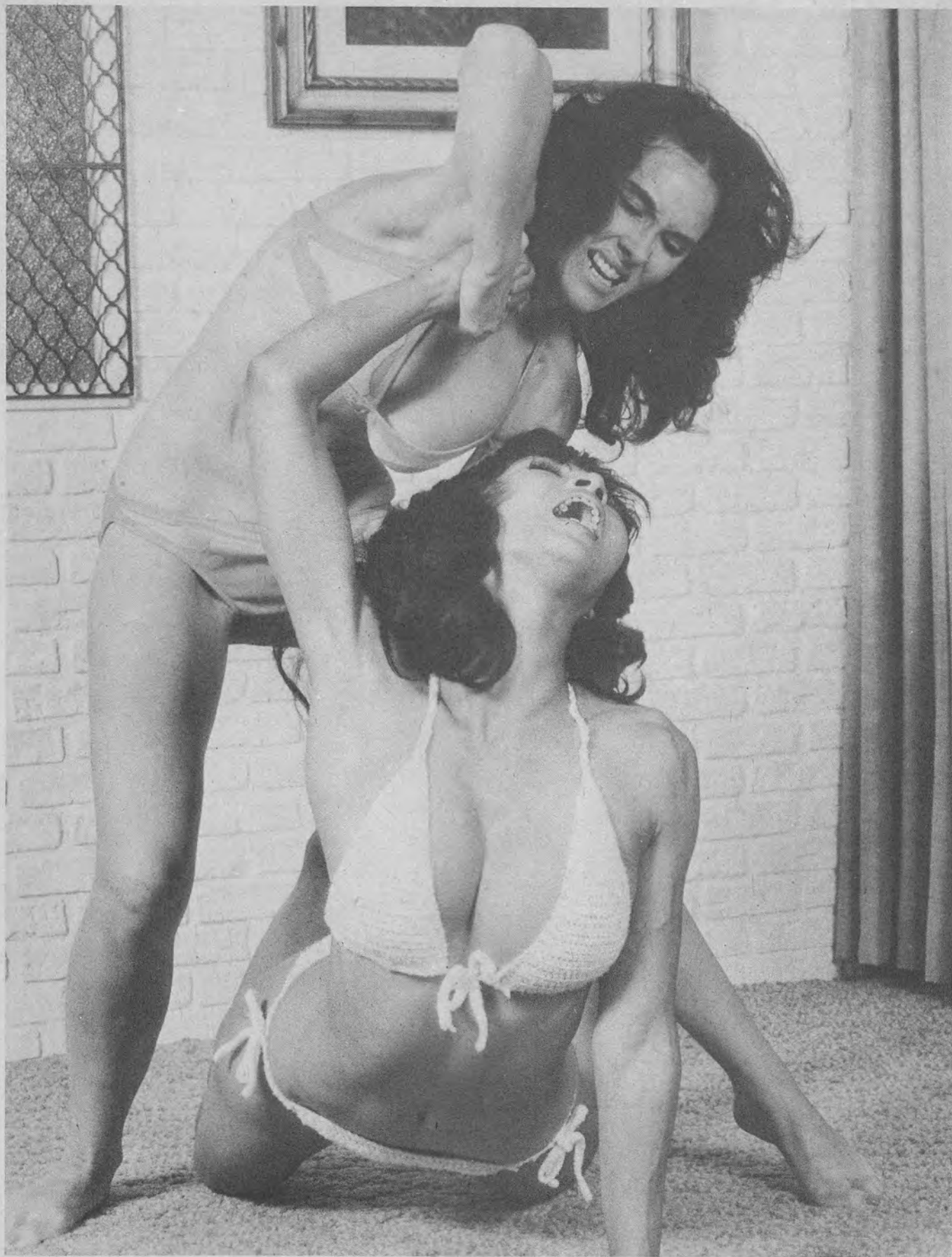


The Giant lifts his man high in the air. It was moments later when Andre came smashing down on his opponent for the victory. Can we call this man a spy?



APARTMENT WRESTLING'S GREATEST BATTLES

Here is the feature you demanded. A collection of the most savage matches ever held in apartment wrestling, drawn from our files, the most extensive in the world. Share with us the breathtaking beauty of these women hellcats at war



In one of three of the most magnificent battles in apartment wrestling history, the exquisitely lovely heiress, Tiffany, torments the voluptuously exotic Marguerita. The cruel savagery of their battles has set a standard for women's combat that has rarely been equaled.



The warring heiresses, Tiffany and Desdomona, claw at each other in a fury borne of years of lethal competition. When their rivalry exploded in physical combat, sophistication was stripped away and primitive bloodlust ruled their magnificently cruel confrontation.



Kyla's tentacle grasp squeezes Gail's windpipe as the agonized brunette gags for air and writhes in desperation. The lush beauties struggled not only for physical supremacy; a movie contract would be the prize given to the winner. In the end, both women got film roles.



Cynara's voluptuous beauty was coupled by an athletic prowess seen once in a sport's generation. Here, her legs and arms move with a gazelle's grace and a lioness' power to double over Salome, a former apartment wrestling champion and a legend in her own right.



Leonora's lithe body is tense with power as her arms twist and turn the beautiful Denise's neck and leg. With an acrobatic agility, Leonora torments her foe. Only Denise's superb skills and veteran cunning allowed her to escape this furious assault.



Years before her match against Leonora, Denise wrestled Cynara for the first apartment wrestling championship. The pair's beauty was in stark contrast to the cruel brutality. Although Denise came close to forcing Cynara to submit, the blonde beauty was finally victorious.



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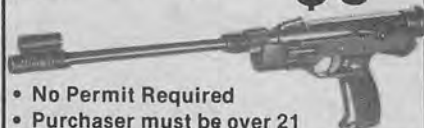
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MAILBAG

(Continued from Page 8)



Above: Ken Patera psyches out his man before the match begins. Right: Is Mil Mascaras really sickening? Is his niceness getting to the fans? Will he be forced to turn rulebreaker?



JUST GREAT

I found your scouting report to be the most informative and interesting wrestling story I have ever read. It was a gold mine of facts and observations, and what made it so great was that it came from the people in the business, the guys who know.

However, I'd like to lodge this protest: I find Mil Mascaras' saintly ways a bit nauseating. No one is that nice. I think if he ever pulls off his mask the fans will see that.

ROBERT BOROVOY
Knoxville, Tenn.

beat Ken Patera. Ken would tear him apart.

Though your magazine won't admit it, Patera has a lot of fine moves and is one of the most courageous wrestlers alive. On sheer strength alone, I think he'd completely waste Backlund and win the WWWF title.

I also thought your article about Billy Carter was quite disrespectful. This is the brother of the President of the United States. Even if he is a clown, that's no reason to hold him up to ridicule. Maybe there was no choice. But I didn't think it was in good taste.

MAGGIE WINTON
Atlanta, Ga.

HE'S A BUM

Miss Hidden of New Mexico is a lame fool for writing in and praising that fat, untalented blob they call Dusty Rhodes. He never should have won "Wrestler of the Year." Rhodes is consistently on the cover of your magazine and I don't know why. He just postures in the ring and cheats with the metal he hides in his so-called Bionic Elbow.

And in your scouting reports, you wonder why Dusty has never won a title?



Above: Dusty Rhodes is loved by almost every wrestling fan. It is rare when a fan writes in to complain about him.

It's because he's a bum! He just isn't that good, yet he receives all this favorable publicity. Go figure it out. There are at least 30 wrestlers superior to Rhodes. Why don't you guys print the truth once in a while?

MARK MORLEY
Montgomery, Ala.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH RAGE?

I think that Rick Steamboat will lose a lot of his ambition if he ever calms down, as you suggest he do in your scouting reports. It is this drive and temper which is pushing him to the top of the wrestling profession. You can't take away his fires without ruining him and putting a potential champion in the class of mediocrities.

With his explosive temper, Rick is that much more unpredictable and has just another weapon as he fights his way to the belt.

DEBBIE KESSLER
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DR. A. S. MAKES HIS PATIENTS SEVERAL INCHES TALLER

By the use of traction the doctor claims to INCREASE THE HEIGHT of his patients by SEVERAL INCHES. (From reports in recent national newspapers.)

Dr. R. L. reports, contributing to the INCREASE IN HEIGHT of his patients between the ages of 18 to 25 by as much as 3". (From the annals of Physical Medicine.)

YMAN GROWS to 40 and sometimes 50" according to late Curator of Physical Anthropology of the Smithsonian Institute. Some facts recently confirmed by Washington Doctor.

"The Influence of Exercise on Growth" revealed by U.S. Surgeon. (From The Journal of Experimental Medicine) A controlled group experiment.

"GAINS IN HEIGHT and weight as a result of experiments on boys from 12 to 17." Studies in Physical Development and Posture. (From U.S. Public Health Bulletin.)

Mr. C.A. claims and testifies to HEIGHT INCREASE of 1 1/2" at age of 54.

Mr. A.S. writes to leading newspaper how father INCREASED HEIGHT by 1 1/2".

Medical literature reveals SPINAL GROWTH can be interrupted by excessive pressures and if deformity can be corrected, provided that they have not been irreversibly damaged — GROWTH WILL RESUME. N.Y. Academy of Medicine.

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☐ January 1965 ☐ February 1965
☐ March 1965

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"I WOULD HAVE KILLED BACKLUND!"

(Continued from Page 10)

up, real quick. So I go back to minding my own business—reading some intellectual book. Most of the fans, those that don't read those prejudiced, lousy wrestling magazines, will tell you that I'm a big intellectual. Got an honorary degree just last year to go with my diploma from the school of hard knocks. Hah, I like that one.

to the last guy that dared to laugh at Fred Blassie? Visit his grave in the Final Station Cemetery in Richmond. That's what happens to people who do that to me.

But, being the nice sort of fella that everyone except ignorant writers know me to be, I tried to keep my temper.

"If you don't stop, Backlund,



Above: "That stupid geek cop pulled me away just in time. I would have killed the bum." Below: Backlund teaches Blassie's man a lesson he won't forget.

Where was I? Right. So I'm sitting there, content to ignore Bulltwerp Backlund's foul mouth, and he starts on me again.

"Blassie, you're a disgrace to wrestling," he says. Hey, do you think I have to take that crap from some untalented wrench who can't tie his shoelaces without instructions? No way!

I tell Backlund that if he doesn't shut his dumb face, I'm gonna have to take some sort of action. Well, this boorish moron with a brain the size of an ant... laughs at me.

Want to know what happened



you're in trouble," I said very politely.

Then this pretty boy monkey says, "Who's gonna do it, your stupid friend Arion?"

That did it, that did it. I took my trusty cane and started poking at Backlund, not meaning to hurt him, just trying to get him to shut up and maybe break one of his ribs in the process. He takes a punch at me! I had to defend myself. I wasn't starting a fight, and well, what the hell could I do but start popping on his head.

Next thing I know, this cop is pulling at me. Probably a cousin of Backlund's. I don't take no guff from nobody, even a cop. I'm Freddy Blassie, remember?

Anyway, there are suddenly two cops dragging me out of the dressing room. What could I do? I popped each of them atop the head and charged into Backlund, who had picked up a chair.

That vermin-ridden cowardly roach. I didn't have a chair, just my trusty cane and my two furious fists. He throws the chair, throws it at me. Can you believe that? That made me real angry, so I pick up the chair and try to bash his face in. Who could blame me? Who could blame me after the way I was provoked?

Well, these two stinking geek cops pull me out of the dressing room and into the hallway. I kinda let them do that, not wanting too bad a brush with the law, though I'm certainly not afraid, mind you.

Once I'm out in the hall, I wait and smile again very politely, and wait for them to leave. I can hear that rabbit-skin geek Backlund muttering behind the door. The cops leave and I just kinda chuckle, softly, and then storm back into his dressing room.

You should have seen him, how afraid he was without a couple of big burly cops to protect him. I start chasing

(Continued on page 48)

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"I WOULD HAVE KILLED BACKLUND!"

(Continued from Page 47)

him around the dressing room, laughing as I'm doing this because I enjoy seeing a cockroach squirm before I squash him.

"Now, Fred, don't do anything you'll regret," Backlund starts pleading with me.

Now it's my turn to laugh.

"How can I regret smashing your face into a million little pieces," I laugh.

Wouldn't ya know it, Backlund starts screaming for help like some mincing dame. And again these two cop friends of his grab me from behind and toss me the hell out of there.



Above: Here Backlund might seem to be in trouble but Mr. Fuji will soon learn why Backlund is champ. Below: Blassie teaches Spiros Arion the tricks we so often see by his men.



Now, at this stage of the game, which I call it because you can't call a fight with a coward a fight, I'm kind of content to let things pass. But Backlund gets new-found courage from his cop cousin buddies.

He comes running out of the dressing room and challenges me to a steel cage match. I laugh



Fred Blassie has been known to attack many wrestlers, even in their dressing rooms. It is obvious that he will stop at nothing.

and say, sure, sure, Bobby, you'll survive a steel cage match with me. He's kind of crazy now, knowing full well how weak he looked. So he says that he'll wrestle my main man Spiros anytime I say.

And to this, I just say, name the date, baby, you name the date.

That's how I disposed of idiot Bob Backlund. And you can bet the family beer supply that my main man Spiros will bounce him on his head the same way!

(Editor's Note: From several eyewitnesses, we learned that it was Blassie who was screaming for help, that it was Blassie who threw the chair, that it was Blassie who was acting deranged. Sorry, Fred, but facts are facts.) ☐

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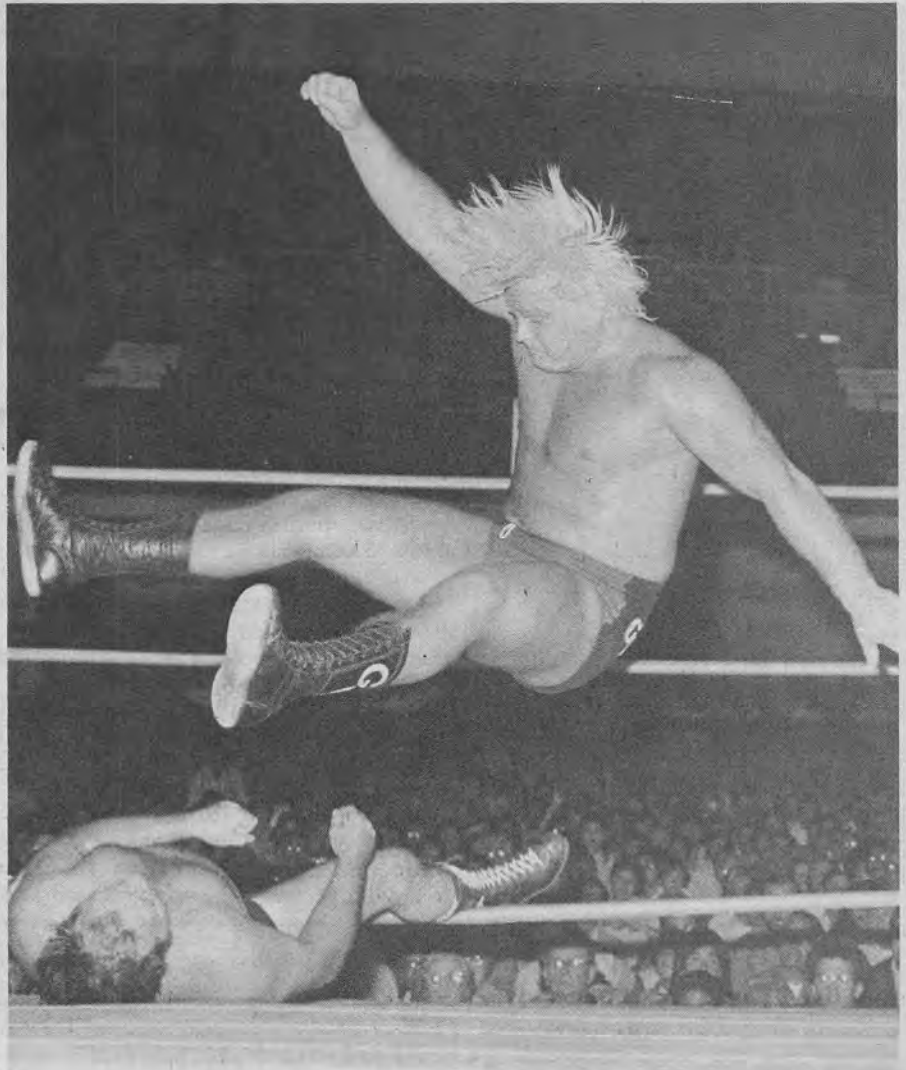
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BREAK INTO WRESTLING

(Continued from Page 12)



"I think getting a job in a wrestling arena is essential. I don't care if it's pushing a broom or selling programs. You have to get into the arena and make friends."
—Greg Valentine

even the same solar system, for that matter.

In the interests of informing our fans about the often difficult paths young wrestlers encounter in breaking into the sport, we decided to hold a seminar, an exchange of ideas and concepts,

a sharing of experiences, in the hope that something constructive, that's constructive, not destructive, would emerge.

"I'm glad you invited me to this seminar," Captain Lou Albano said as he thoughtfully stroked his beard. "This way something intelligent will be said."

"I'm very honored to be here," Verne Gagne said.

"So am I," Dusty Rhodes smiled. "I enjoy sharing my knowledge with others."

Superstar Billy Graham and Greg Valentine nodded agreeably.

When we invited these men, we knew that the hostility had to be held to a minimum. Inviting Graham and Rhodes to the same place is dangerous, and Albano and Gagne have no great love for each other either. But every individual promised to behave themselves and devote the afternoon to information and not insults.

"It was a lot easier to break into wrestling when I started," Dusty said. "There seemed to be more opportunities for us to strut our stuff. Now that wrestling popularity has gone through the roof, more and more kids want to become professional wrestlers. The competition is very stiff."

Exactly the reason for the seminar. How to overcome this increasing competition?

"I think just being a fan helps," Graham said. "By watching the wrestlers' moves and being familiar with the entire sport, you have a great foundation to work with. I'd suggest studying wrestlers very closely and going to as many matches as you possibly can."

"Definitely," Valentine agreed. "More so, I think getting a job in a wrestling arena is essential. I don't care if it's

(Continued on page 52)

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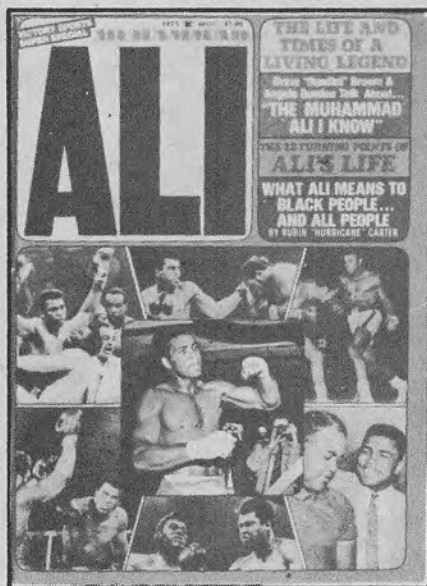
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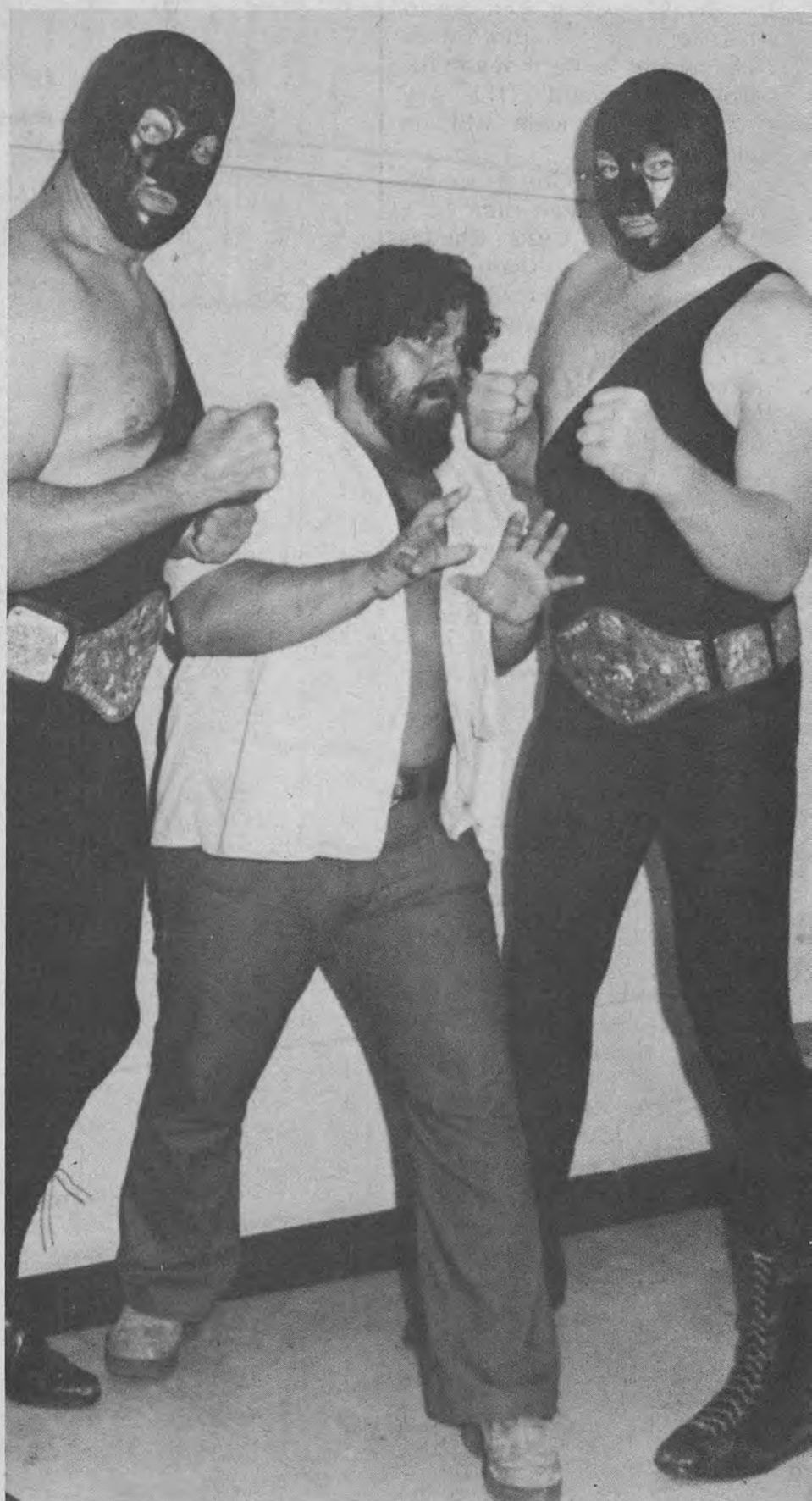
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BREAK INTO WRESTLING

(Continued from Page 51)



pushing a broom or selling programs. You have to get into the arena and make friends with people. This will also give you a chance to see the wrestlers in person, and most of the guys will always answer questions and give out pointers. There's always a couple of stinkers who won't, but wrestlers like to help young guys. By getting a job in the arena you are close to the action and will get yourself known to the right people."



"I would say a manager is the perfect route. You'll keep getting a lot of crap information about this way and that way from a lot of dumb fools. What you need is a wise man guiding you and making you a champ."

—Captain Lou Albano

"Very true," Rhodes said. "You'll only be pounding your skull against a steel wall if you try and go in cold. I think that the best thing for a wrestler is to get in as many amateur matches as you can, whether on the school team or even at the club level.

(Continued on page 54)

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BREAK INTO WRESTLING

(Continued from Page 53)

You can't go to a promoter and ask him to set you up unless you can show a lot of experience. That and exercising are the best suggestions I can make."

Our world-famous expert on body-building eagerly offered his opinions.

"Lifting weights is the best exercise in the world," Graham said. "You need your strength and nothing, absolutely nothing, will give you the strength like weight lifting. But you should



buy any one of the top books on the sport and carefully follow the instructions so you don't hurt yourself. I do think a set of weights is a wise investment for any rookie wrestler."

"If I may politely disagree with my esteemed colleague," Dusty said sarcastically. They exchanged ugly looks but refrained from any physical violence. "I'm a great believer in isometrics. I think weight lifting is good only up to a point.



**"Lifting weights is the best exercise in the world. You need strength and nothing, absolutely nothing, will give you the strength like weight lifting."
—Superstar Billy Graham**

Improving muscle tone is very important so you don't lose your agility and become muscle-bound. Doing both sort of exercises, as well as gymnastic exercises, is a great all-around program."

"There are various wrestling camps around the country where youngsters can go to improve their skills," Gagne said. "These camps are very good because the students learn under the coaching of experienced men. This way, there's constant supervision to ensure that no one gets injured."

"Also, the students can do all the exercises and maneuvers at
(Continued on page 56)

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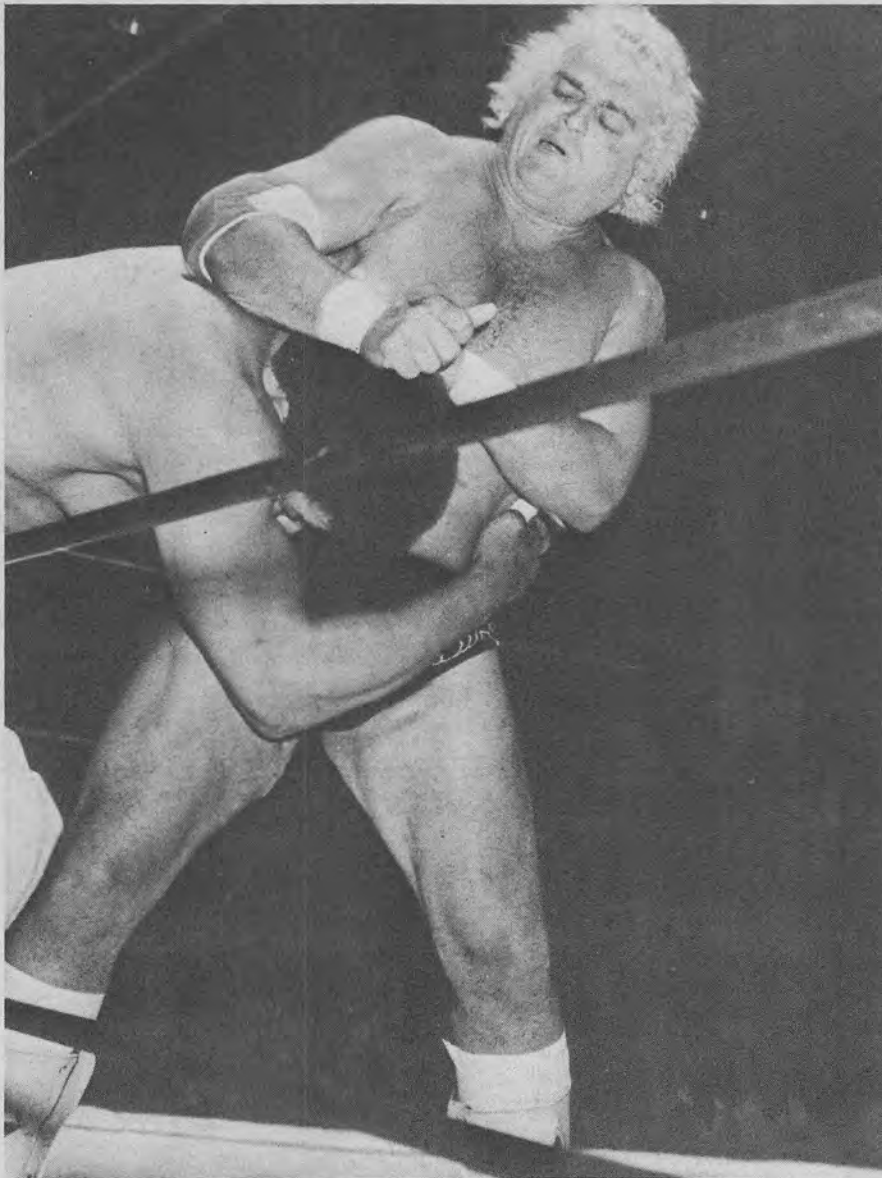
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BREAK INTO WRESTLING

(Continued from Page 55)



**"I think the best thing for a wrestler is to get in as many amateur matches as you can, whether on the school team or even at the club level."
—Dusty Rhodes**

home. I think that's an excellent way for kids to break in and learn the correct methods of wrestling."

Once the youngster has built himself up, gotten good contacts and learned the proper moves, what then?

"I would say a manager is the perfect route," Albano said. "You'll keep getting a lot of crap information about this way and that way from a lot of dumb fools. What you need is a wise man guiding you and making

you a champ. You think these wrestlers, guys who can't even open a can of tuna by themselves, would make it to the top if they didn't have a manager telling them what to do every step of the way? Come on."

It was a demonstration of considerable self-restraint that no one punched Albano in the face. Fortunately for the seminar, his crass remarks were ignored. We asked every person to make a closing remark.

"I say work, work, work,"

Valentine said.

"Develope your own unique personality. That'll help a lot," Rhodes said.

"Lift those weights, baby. And don't eat a lot of garbage food," Graham said.

"Watch out for the shady characters who'll try and sell you the Moon," Albano said. "Be careful who you trust. Only trust respectable people like me."

"You have to want it very badly and really want to expend the energy to make yourself a good wrestler," Verne said. "Look down deep within yourself and honestly ask yourself if you're prepared to make the necessary sacrifices. If you are, welcome aboard, because the youngsters are the lifeblood of the sport."

□

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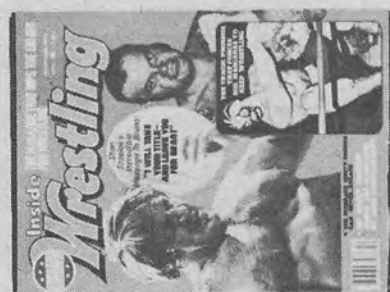
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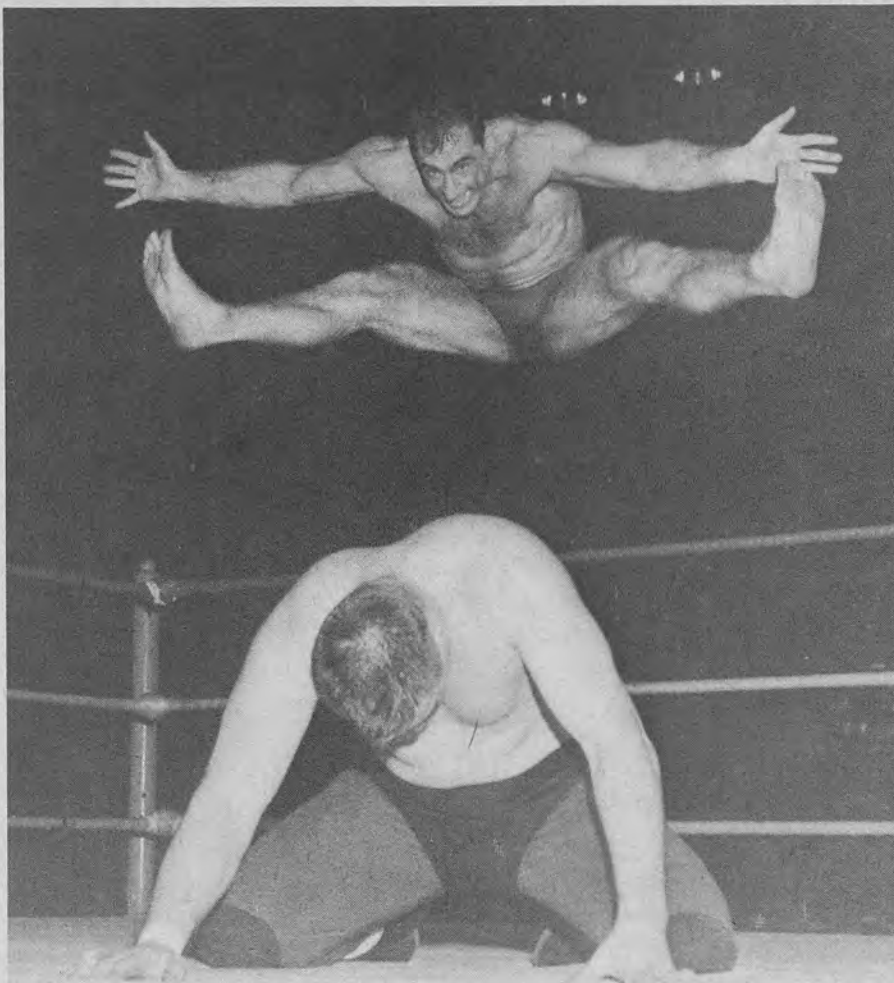
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A FAN SOUNDS OFF

(Continued from Page 21)



Rocca (above) made Maggie thrill with excitement when he wrestled Bill Miller. Another top favorite of Maggie's was ballet dancer/wrestler Ricki Starr. Ricki cartwheels over the hated Great Scott (left).

will never be a better wrestler and a finer man than Rocca. He used to attend many charitable functions. One time, when we were both working for the same charity, I had the great honor of meeting him.

It was very funny. We were both talking to two groups of people. I saw him out of the corner of my eye and my heart started fluttering with excitement. Now I'm

trying to keep up my conversation and move closer to him. I'm doing this very slowly and my friends unknowingly are following me. After several minutes, I was standing right next to him, still talking to my friends, who weren't even aware of what I had done. Rocca knew and he was delighted. What a nice man.



Rocca tries to win the NWA title from Buddy Rogers, but all his efforts will fail. Maggie didn't like that one bit!

Q: In the late 1950s the greatest rulebreaker had to be Buddy Rogers.

A: And what a nasty man that Rogers was. He makes the bad guys of today—Graham, Race and the others—look like angels. There was nothing he wouldn't do to win. One night, oh, I'm a little ashamed to say this, but one evening he was choking this man, I don't remember his name, with a really vicious neck hold. I

(Continued on page 62)

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Pic. Bk/Win 75



Pic. Bk/Spr 76



Pic. Bk/Sum 76



Pic. Bk/Fall 76



Pic. Bk/Win 76



Pic. Bk/Mar 77



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**BEN
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A FAN SOUNDS OFF

(Continued from Page 59)

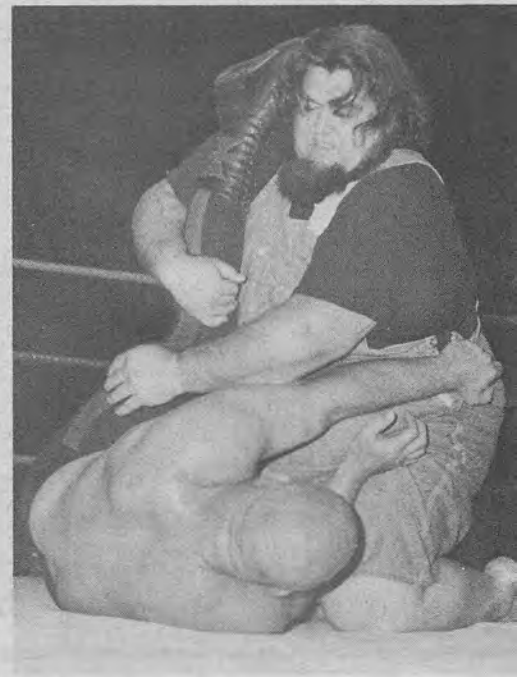


Maggie loves watching Mr. Wrestling II (above backdropping Brute Bernard). The huge Haystacks Calhoun (below against Baron Von Raschke) is another favorite.

was at ringside and the two of them were near the ropes. I was very upset about what Rogers was doing and I yelled out at him, 'Let him go, you big bully!' Rogers' mouth dropped and then he stuck his tongue out at me. I nearly fainted.

Q: Wrestling was one of the biggest attractions on early TV, wasn't it?

A: It became a ritual, every Saturday afternoon for several hours and on





A man Maggie despises is Superstar Billy Graham. "He's downright intolerable!" the veteran fan exclaims.

Saturday nights when I lived in Bridgeport. I would sit transfixed by the action just as I did on Tuesday nights when Milton Berle was on. When wrestling was on, I couldn't be bothered with anything. It became a standing joke in the house that on Saturdays the dinner was sandwiches. Momma couldn't fix dinner that night, Rocca was on.

Q: What about some of the current wrestlers?

A: I really admire Mr. Wrestling II and Andre the Giant. Mr. Wrestling II has such a nice, fluid style. He is a true athlete. And Andre is just, well, Andre. A very fine man and an exceptional wrestler.

Q: Who would you rate as the sport's chief villain?

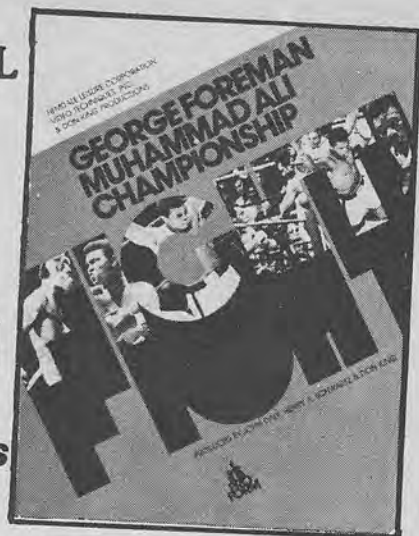
A: I think Superstar Graham is the worst around because he's held a belt and defaced the meaning of a title. He is very cruel and I don't like him.

Q: Maggie, thank you very much.

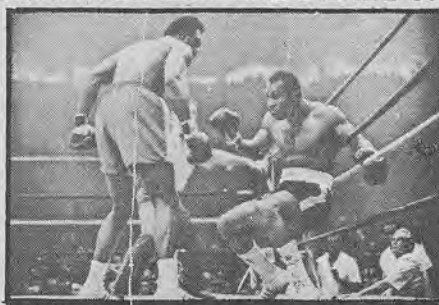
A: Thank you, son. ☐

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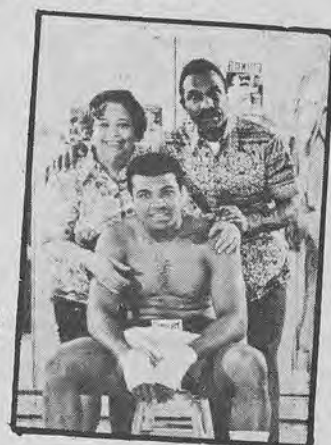


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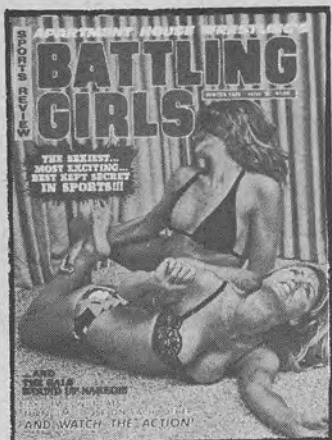
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Mascaras, Andre, and Maivia

(Continued from Page 36)



Superstar goes down to his knees as Mil Mascaras continues to work him over. Mascaras has certainly proven just how capable he is inside the ring.

I think it's a disgrace to print any of these damn lies. You know that Blassie and Albano have grudges against Mascaras because he whips their asses and all their wrestlers' butts. So how the hell can you believe any of this crap?"

Is this simply a malicious rumor? A plan, perhaps? But

why? Because Blassie and Albano and company hate Mascaras? Perhaps it is more like fear. Maivia, Andre and Mil have teamed up in six-man tag teams in the past. Not surprisingly, they have pummeled their opponents. They're virtually invincible. Is this an ugly plot to cause

suspicion within the ranks of the scientific wrestling community, so that the way will be clear for the likes of Blassie and Albano to take complete control over the sport?

Can this be part of a frightening conspiracy to ruin wrestling?



Andre, in a brilliant move, comes crushing down on the leg of his opponent. The fans love it.

"How anyone can accuse Mil Mascaras of something like that is beyond me," Maivia went on. "I trust him like a brother. I would trust him with my life. I do not believe one word."

"It is ridiculous," was all Andre would say.

But there remained a word from Mascaras, who displayed unusual silence when confronted with these alleged facts.

"I do not have to respond to such vicious character assassinations," he said annoyed. "The world knows what I stand for. If, after all these years, my integrity must suffer through these attacks, then I have nothing to say."

It amounts to this. Who do you believe—Mascaras or Albano? ☐

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